

Eriksson & Marocchi at the back . . .



1996 is drawing to a close and what an eventful year it has been for the World Game.

Internationally the Olympic Football Tournament and the European Championships took our attention. Crowds in the USA were enormous even though no games were played in the Olympic city of Atlanta.

The Women's game came of age with over 70,000 at the final between the USA and China. That attendance was totally unexpected before the Games began. If Australia makes the women's Final in 2000 will we see 80,000 at the Olympic Stadium?

Once more Football, the name used in the Olympics, was the sport that drew the most spectators. We have something to live up to in the year 2000.

Nigeria thrilled us as they strode on to Olympic gold in the men's tournament. It is probably true to say that our Olyroos disappointed with their early exit.

Many were frustrated with the coverage of our favourite sport during the Games but in all fairness there are a vast number of events to cover, including synchronised swimming.

The senior teams of Europe put on the entertainment in England with that continent's championships. The fans behaved and apart from a pointless explosion in central Manchester, the IRA terrorists stayed away.

Manchester United 'did the double' in England. Alex Ferguson's team were the first to achieve two doubles since the Football League was formed in 1888. The FA Cup started in 1872.

British clubs still found it hard going in European competitions. So they went out and started doing what the Italian clubs had been doing for thirty or forty years, they bought some of the supposedly best players from Europe and South America.

It'll take a while to work though. United are the first club since 1985 to make the European Cup Quarter Finals.

Excitement and controversy abounded in our part of the world. Oceania came into being as a Confederation within FIFA. Its formation was opposed by David Hill Chairman of Soccer Australia at the FIFA Congress in July. Over 170 voted for it. At least Hill was noticed. If he'd have simply gone along for the quiet life, people wouldn't have known who he was. Smart work, Mr Hill.

A spat over club logos, emblems, badges hit the scene. Hill the bad bloke versus 'the clubs'. Changes went through eventually. Can anyone really remember what it was all about? Good publicity though, if you believe in the saying "any publicity is good publicity".

Melbourne Knights swept to their second consecutive Ericsson Cup victory but then lost a number of their top players and this season are struggling.

The Australian international side played a number of times both in Australia and overseas. A shock loss to Japan in Wollongong was reversed a few days later.

A goal less draw was achieved against Sweden following a 2-0 reversal in Brisbane.

The very first series between overseas playing Aussies and those in the domestic competition was played to mixed reviews. At least it was good to Bosnich and Vidmar in live action.

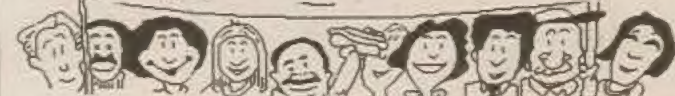
An Australian team made up of those in Europe with Popovic and Tobin took on Scotland at Hampden Park and almost caused a sensation going down by the only goal of the game.

South Africa provided the next stage for the Soccerroos with Ghana. Kenya and the host country the opposition.

A two game series in October, against Tahiti, decided Oceania's entry in the Confederation's Cup come December 1997. The Cup carries substantial prize money and is to be held in Saudi Arabia.

1997 will doubtless bring us all our own memories of this most wonderful of games.

Happy Event Announced



On Thursday December 19, a son **Daniel John Kelvin**, was born to **Mary and Brock Quartly**.
Mary worked on ABSW from its very first edition in 1980 until August this year as a typesetter and layout artist.
We wish the delighted parents the heartiest congratulations!

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Merry Christmas

*The Staff at Australian and British Soccer Weekly would sincerely like to wish all our Readers and Advertisers
A Very Merry Christmas and
A Prosperous and Fulfilling
New Year*

The Front Cover

The main part of this week's front cover is the greetings card sent from FIFA Headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland to ABSW.

Children — the Future of Football, is the title of the picture. Helga Genser produced the work. It is a motif for SOS Children's Villages project.

The President, Joao Havelange and the General Secretary, Joseph Blatter both

signed the card personally.

Although the card came to ABSW we think it was addressed to all readers, and we felt we should share it with you.

As you may be aware FIFA is an active supporter of the SOS Children's Villages scheme. This is a charity organisation providing accomodation for homeless youngsters in under developed countries.



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ERICSSON CUP

MATCH REPORTS

TOPPER BREAKERS DOWN LEADERS

Topper Breakers

3

By DANE SKAFTE

Sydney United

1

Three second half goals in the space of eleven minutes was enough for Newcastle Topper Breakers to send competition front runners Sydney United home with their first defeat of the season, last Friday night at the Breakers Stadium.

On an overcast evening a big crowd was on hand to watch the local side score its second win of the season against the talented Sydney side.

Both teams started the match slowly showing respect for each other. The first chance of the match went to David Zdrilic whose shot in the 12th minute was cleared off the line by Breakers defender Scott Thomas. Zdrilic was unlucky five minutes later when his powerful header went wide of the sticks. The rest of the first half was ordinary.

Nine minutes into the second half United took the lead after some good build up work by Zdrilic who outplayed two Newcastle defenders and knocked a crisp ball to Ante Milicic. He made no mistake with his low shot beating Liam Baker.

Newcastle levelled the scores in the 67th minute when United keeper Zeljko

Kalac failed to hang on to a cross and the ball fell to Shane Pryce who hammered it into the empty net from close range.

The Newcastle side continued to look dangerous from this point on and were rewarded with their second goal five minutes later. Big Clayton Zane powered home a header from three metres out. The Breakers continued to rub salt into the visitors wounds when they scored their final goal thanks to Jason Bennett.

A disappointed United coach Branko Culina said after the match, "It was only a matter of time before someone was going to beat us."

"They (Newcastle) played well tonight we weren't hungry enough to win."

"We were not committed for the full 90 minutes and we paid the price."



Newcastle Topper Breakers: Baker, Pryce, Sprod, Ironside, Thomas, Zane, Halpin, McManus, Roberts, Bennett (McGuire 87), Austin.
Sydney United: Kalac, Trajkovski (Cvetko 73), Kupresak, Popovic, Babic, Enes, Marusic, Moric (Genc 77), Milicic, Zdrilic, Bilokapic.

Scorers: Breakers: Pryce (67), Zane (72), Bennett (78). United: Milicic (54).
Yellow Cards: Breakers: Austin (10), Zane (73), Halpin (85). United: Marusic (68), Kupresak (72).
Referee: M Breeze.
Crowd: 4,225.
POY: Zane 3, Halpin 2, Zdrilic 1



A very relieved John Kosmina said the win has been long overdue.

"We showed plenty of commitment and we were very competitive."

"We played well as a team and should have had four goals."

Kosmina agreed that his team had enough character to win this Sunday against UTS Olympic.



Jason Bennett: Finished off the Ericsson Cup leaders with third goal.

MARK READ'S GUIDE TO SOCCER BETTING (PT. 3)

HANDICAP BETTING

In parts 1 and 2 of my Guide to Soccer Betting we've looked at singles, multiples and handicap betting. Now we're going to take a look at betting with permutations — perms for short.

Perms are really just a series of multiple bets which are combined into one. You pick the number of games you wish to bet in and the type of bet you wish to play. For example you may wish to back all the combinations of doubles in four games. Your bet is a perm, any 2 from 4, a \$10 stake will cost you \$60 and you collect if any two of your selections win. If you fancy trebles in five games your perm is any 3 from 5. A \$10 stake will cost you \$100 and you collect if any three of your selections win. If all five of your selections won, you would collect on ten trebles. A big return regardless of the individual odds of your selections.

We'll kick-off with a simple example. In Round 11 of the Ericsson Cup you fancy three of the away teams — any two from three selections for a \$10 stake. In other words you have backed all the doubles possible from three selections for a total outlay of \$30.

Your three doubles are — Canberra with Perth (odds 20/1)

Canberra with West Adelaide (odds 16/1)

Perth with West Adelaide (odds 10/1)

If say Canberra and Perth both win but West Adelaide lose then you'd still collect \$210 for your total outlay of \$30; and if all three teams were to win then your total collect would be \$490 (\$210 + \$170 + \$110).

Of course you're not limited to picking only three teams. Some popular bets on Ericsson Cup Rounds are to choose any five from seven (21 bets) or any six from seven (7 bets). In this way you can have an interest in all seven matches but haven't already lost your bet if one of your Friday evening selections happens to lose.

One disadvantage of using perms is that the number of bets involved may be large and your total stake may end up coming to more than you want to spend. To get round this you can use "bankers". Bankers are teams which you think are certain to win and by including them you can reduce the number of bets and therefore save on your total stake. Here's a quick example to show how bankers work.

If you choose to perm any five from six with a \$10 Stake your total investment is \$60. However by selecting two bankers plus any three from four, you still need five of your six selections to win but have reduced the number of bets to four, for a total outlay of \$40. The one thing you must remember though is that all your bankers must win otherwise the whole bet is lost.

Any of the sorting staff, Frank, Ed, or Jamie will be happy to expand on perms or any other bet types you may wish to enquire about. Just give us a call.

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ERICSSON CUP

MATCH REPORTS

WOLVES OVERCOME DETERMINED COSMOS

Wollongong City 2

By PHIL MURPHY

Canberra Cosmos 1

Wollongong City captain Matt Horsley capped an outstanding performance with a dramatic winning goal at Brandon Park on Friday night. With three minutes left, Horsley hammered the ball home from the edge of the box after Canberra goalkeeper Danny Milosevic had punched it clear from a free kick on the left. Despite having dominated the game, it seemed the Wolves would have to settle for a point after

Tony Lemezena equalised with 11 minutes to go. Wollongong looked a class above the Cosmos until the

visitors came to life 20 minutes from the end. Replacement Tony Perinich had scored his first goal of the season to put Wollongong ahead after 50 minutes - a gem from the edge of the box. The score could easily have been 5-0 before Canberra decided they wanted to make a game of it. Ante Juric had a header flash just over the top. Horsley cleared a Lemazina effort off the line then Paul Dee hit the crossbar with a swerving angled drive.

With the Wolves defence hanging on, referee Brett Hugo awarded Canberra a free kick after goalkeeper Adan Brodbeck carried the ball out

of his box. Newcomer Rodrigo Moreno touched the ball to Lemazina and his powerful drive flew in off the underside of the crossbar. It had been a brave fightback from Canberra but Horsley was to kill of their hopes of a valuable away point.

The Wolves had a nightmare start, goalkeeper Bret Hughes having to pull out during the pre-match warm up after aggravating a foot injury. Youth team keeper Brodbeck was rushed onto the field for the kick off and within the opening minute made a good save to deny Richard Watson.

After just 11 minutes, the

home team lost midfielder Lupcho Naumovski with a twisted knee. Horsley rattled the Canberra post just before Naumovski went off and the Canberra defence was continually in trouble when they played square. Michael Reda and Sonny Sevin charged up the middle time after time in the second half with nothing to show for it.

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos said after the game his players did well to overcome their early problems.

"We played some very good football and should have scored more goals but it was very tight at the finish."



Matt Horsley: Capped his superb match performance with winning goal.

Wollongong: Brodbeck, Ceccoli, Van Egmond, Horsley, Sevin, Naumovski (Perinich 11 - Karamis 60), Reda, Harlock, Joseski, Lloyd, Surjan (Bourke 82).
Canberra: Milosevic, Dee, Milin (Baxter 72), Watson, Garcia, Kelly, Armstrong (Lemazina 60), Koch, Souris, Juric, Moreno.

Scorers: Wolves: Perinich (50), Horsley (87).
Cosmos: Lemezena (79).
Referee: Hugo.
Yellow Cards: Wollongong: Surjan (47), Horsley (89).
Canberra: Moreno (15), Milin (45), Kelly (52), Souris (71), Juric (86), Koch (89).
POY: 3-Horsley (WC), 2-Lloyd (WC), 1-Dee (CC).

Canberra coach Mike Lyons said his players played with plenty of spirit and worked hard but didn't have any luck.

"Wollongong gambled with two shots from the edge of the box and they both produced goals. That's the way our season has been."

STRIKERS DEMOLISH WARRIORS

Brisbane Strikers 5

By GLENN DAVIS

Collingwood Warriors 2

Brisbane Strikers gave the perfect reply to their Soccerroo snubbing with a convincing 5-2 demolition of Collingwood Warriors at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

Not one Strikers' player was deemed worthy of selection in new coach Terry Venables' 22 man squad for the four nation series next month despite the side's high flying performances this year.

The Strikers, who are now just two points adrift of league leaders Sydney United, completed the Collingwood thrashing without suspended skipper Alan Hunter. Stand-in captain Glen Gwynne, who was one of four players coach Frank Farina believed should be in Venables' Soccerroo side produced a man-of-the-match performance in the sweeping

role to once again signal he was more than ready for a national call up.

Farina, who was disgusted with the continual bias against Queenslanders by past and present Soccerroo coaches, has never met Venables, but has vowed to spring to the defence of his besieged players by seeking a meeting with the former England coach.

"I've never been backward in coming forward," said Farina. "I know that he really hasn't picked the side and my concern is the players haven't had a fair go."

"I'm disappointed for a few guys in the team and if I get a chance I'll be telling Venables if I see him that I've got a few players in my team that are better than some in the current squad." Farina once again praised sweeper Glen Gwynne

for another superb effort.

"I thought Gwynne was magnificent as he has been all year. But unfortunately the national coach never gets to come here to watch us. They only see the side on television replays and then all the television shows do is bag us."

With Gwynne leading by example at the back, Farina led in similar style from the front, notching up yet another double and earning a penalty after being brought down in the box. The Strikers went to the break at 2-0 following a seventh minute goal from Farina before Collingwood levelled through Andy Vlahos against the run of play on 19 minutes.

The home side then stuck their noses in front from a Mark Battistin penalty in the 24th minute before Vlahos scored his second, surprising

keeper Graham Ross with a curling shot from the corner of the box over the keeper's head nine minutes from the break.

The second half proved one way traffic with Brayshaw firing in a cross from deep on the by-line to Farina who headed home for the home side's third goal just four minutes after the resumption. Midway through the second half, Farina's marker Alex Pryhodko was sent off for a foul on the former Soccerroo, which paved the way for two late goals by Chris Slater and Kasey Wehrman.

Although the send off made it easier for the Strikers, it didn't have much bearing on the overall result as the Strikers always looked in command with a big score always on the cards even before the dismissal.



Glen Gwynne: Stand in skipper superb at back.

Strikers: Ross, Gwynne, Phillips, Farina, Brown (Slater 74), Wright, T. Cranney, Battistin, Brayshaw, Wehrman, Tollenaere (Harris 79).

Collingwood: Juric, Fak, Talladira, Vlahos, Taladoros, Tapai, Silic, MacNicol, Jolevski (Vlahos 59), Scott, Pryhodko.
Scorers: Strikers: Farina (7, 49), Battistin (24 pen), Slater, Wehrman (83).
Warriors: Vlahos (19, 36).
Yellow Cards: Warriors: Vlahos (36), Tapai (65).
Red Cards: Warriors: Pryhodko (68).
Referee: Micallef.
Crowd: 4,194.
POY: 3-Gwynne (BS), 2-Farina (BS), 1-Vlahos (CW).

MARCONI SQUASH OLYMPIC

Marconi Fairfield 5

By TED SIMMONS

UTS Olympic 1

Striker Sean Babic scored a brilliant runaway goal in Marconi's 5-1 win over UTS Olympic in the Ericsson Cup, and was immediately rewarded by being replaced.

Babic, who has been selected in the Australian squad for the international series next month, had scored the opening goal in the eleventh minute.

He added the second 15 minutes from time against a depleted Olympic whose captain Nick Meredith was sent off for a second bookable foul in the 68th minute.

The match was fiery from the opening whistle with referee Gerry Connolly issuing six yellow cards and one red.

Marconi sparked in the opening half producing touches which had been missing in the early part of the season. An audacious long pass by Luke Casserly over the heads of the defence caught Olympic and set Babic on a long run to goal.

He rounded advancing keeper Anthony Franken but had to sprint to catch the ball and score. Olympic fought back quickly and should have levelled when an Alistair Edwards cross from the left

was controlled in front of goal by striker Norm Tome who tamely shot to Marconi keeper Bob Catlin.

Tome had another chance two minutes later but headed a cross from Carlos Gonzalez into Catlin's hands.

Marconi went further ahead in the 33rd minute when Babic and Casserly switched passes, allowing Babic to fire a fierce shot at Franken. The keeper was hampered by a bad bounce and the ball rebounded to Francis Awaritefe who slammed it into the roof of the net.

In the final few minutes of the half, Kris Trajanovski volleyed the ball over the Marconi bar from point blank range and Vlado Zoric made a similar shot in front of the Olympic goal.

Olympic persevered in its attack in the second half with Trajanovski missing an open goal five minutes into the session with Tome reducing the leeway in the 65th minute with a long range chip over Catlin's head.

It took Marconi two minutes to regain the advantage when Andy Harper pounced on a poor clearance to put the home team 3-1 in front with Babic completing a solo run from halfway in the



75th minute.

Meredith was sent off for a dumping tackle on Awaritefe with the Marconi striker being booked seconds later when he confronted Meredith as he was walking off the field.

The final goal was scored three minutes into extra time by Marconi defender Brad Mooney.



Milan Blagojevic: Stood out in an otherwise poor Olympic display.

Marconi Fairfield: Catlin, Bingley, Casserly, Harper, Foster, Maloney, Longo, Babic (Ravanello 75), Awaritefe (Hristodoulou 89), Souris (Stanton 77), Zoric.

UTS Olympic: Franken, Ciantar, Barrett, Tsekenis, Tome (Saad 46, Augerinos 72), Edwards, Emerton (Bove 72), Trajanovski, Gonzalez, Meredith, Blagojevic.
Scorers: Marconi: Babic (11, 75), Awaritefe (33), Harper (67), Maloney (87).
Olympic: Tome (65).
Yellow Cards: Marconi: Casserly (21), Awaritefe (68).
Olympic: Barrett (18), Meredith (21), Edwards (47), Meredith (68).
Red Cards: Meredith (68).
Referee: G Connolly.
Crowd: 10,334.
POY: 3 - Babic (MF), 2 - Blagojevic (UD), 3 - Souris (MF).

ERICSSON CUP

MATCH REPORTS

LAKERS SHUT OUT THE GLORY

South Melbourne

An overdue goal from New Zealand international Vaughan Coveny secured a 1-0 win for South Melbourne in the Ericsson Cup against Perth Glory at Bob Jane Stadium tonight. It was South Melbourne's fourth straight victory.

About 8,000 home fans rose as one after Coveny volleyed an Ivan Kelic cross from the right into the net for his first goal of the season.

A gritty Perth earned plenty of respect from tonight's absorbing battle between the

third and fourth placed clubs in the Ericsson Cup.

The visitors created the two best scoring chances of the first half and defended stoutly against a dangerous three-pronged strike force.

Perth Glory coach Gary Marocchi could not bring himself to criticise his players and said the hit out was a character building experience.

"I can't be disappointed," Marocchi said. "We are a new team, South Melbourne is one of the oldest along with Marconi and their supporters are fanatical."

"We showed tonight that we can fight. You've got to give our guys credit, they didn't cave in. They played their hearts out."

South Melbourne looked the more polished side on the night but did not capitalise on a territorial advantage in a scoreless opening half.

Lakers' skipper Paul Trimboli came closest when his lobbed shot hit the crossbar, while entreprising midfielder David Clarkson just missed with a long range drive in the 38th minute.

Bobby Despotovski had his

legs cut from beneath him by Orlic's tackle in the 29th minute but referee Eugene Brazzale only cautioned the South Melbourne player with a yellow card.

A rare lapse of concentration from Perth defender Craig Naven allowed Kelic to supply a low cross which found Coveny at the near post 19 minutes after the interval and he slotted home the only goal of the game from the edge of the goal area.

South Melbourne could have added a second goal in the 85th minute but Polak's

finish was weak after substitute Michael Curcija presented him with an open goal.

South's coach Angie Postecoglou was thrilled with the way his side shut out Perth's forwards to maintain the pressure all game.

"We denied them service, they didn't create anything which was down to our guys," Postecoglou said. He credited South Melbourne's form reversal from early in the season to renewed confidence and a greater cohesion in his young squad.

South Melbourne: Petkovic; Orlic, Kuzmanovic, Blasis, Polak, Coveny (Allsopp 88), Trimboli (Iosifidis 64), Damianos, Clarkson, Kelic (Curcija 83), DeAmicis.
Perth Glory: Matassa; Naven C., Wilkinson, Buljbasic, Naven G., Miller, McVittie, Strudwick, Despotovski, Kalogeracos, Wingell.

Scorers: Lakers; Coveny (64)
Yellow Cards: Lakers; Orlic (32)
Glory: Kalogeracos (21)

Referee: E. Brazzale
POY: 3 - Damianos (SM)
2 - Clarkson (SM) 1
Blasis (SM)

STH GRAB VALUABLE AWAY POINTS

West Adelaide

South Melbourne won a valuable three points away from home when it outclassed West Adelaide for a 2-0 Ericsson Cup win at Hindmarsh Stadium on December 15.

West relied on speculative balls forward which rarely troubled South's disciplined defensive four of Orlic, Alex Kuzmanovic, Con Blasis and

Fausto de Amicis.

The Sharks best chance to gain an equaliser came in the 74th minute when striker Jimmy Tsekinis launched a run down the right and into the box, but his sliding shot across goal was just millimetres wide of the target.

The importance of that miss was emphasised just three minutes later when a corner

West Adelaide
Sharks: Wildy, Therp, Slager, Hooker, Alagich (Cutillo 80), Aloisi, Cardozo, Kokkinopitis, Tibaldi, Antone (Mezensof 71), Tskinis.

South Melbourne
Lakers: Petkovic, Orlic, Kuzmanovic, Blasis, Panopoulos, Coveny (Spink 78), Trimboli, Damianos (Polak 84), Clarkson, Kelic (Curcija 88), De Amicis.

Scorers: Lakers; Orlic (20), Kelic (76).
Yellow cards: Sharks; Kokkinopitis (10), Antone (47), Tibaldi (53), Hooker (80).

Crowd: 3,972.
Referee: W Dade
POY: 3-Orlic (SM), 2-Damianos (SM), 1-Cardozo (WA)



Ivan Kelic: Put away the Lakers second goal with fourteen minutes to go.

was floated in for unmarked Kelic to slot home the simplest of goals.



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WHAT IS THERE TO WORRY ABOUT?

Dear Sir,
What is it that Croatian Clubs have to worry about Mr. Scullino? (letters Dec 10, 1996)

It amazes me sometimes when so called soccer experts voice their opinion before checking the facts Mr. Scullino says for instance that Croatian clubs in particular have to be worried about Mr. Hill's policies in bringing the game to mainstream Anglo Aussies. In the history of Sydney United there never was any objection to this policy. Actually in the early days of our club, then Sydney Croatia, in our squad you saw Frank and Ray Cush, Ronny Giles, Ron Corry, Jim Frazer, John Doyle, Tommy Sneden, Denis Wright, later Steve Watson, Mark Jones, Alan Hunter, Robbie Slater, Graham Arnold and many other players of quality.

Every soccer lover is always welcome to our games indeed, Mr Hill is often a guest. We think that his way of introducing the game to mainstream, as you called Anglo Aussies, by ignoring the history of the clubs was wrong. I give you an example. Manly Rugby club made an application to enter the Ericsson Cup. Why did not Mr Hill accept the application and give Anglo Aussies a chance to compete against so

called ethnics. Any sporting competition is healthy and raises standards. Instead of introducing the new club in the competition Mr Hill was trying to deny history of well established clubs. All we wanted was some kind of recognition for our part in the game. Mr Hill finally agreed to a compromise and now we have an emblem that represents both countries. There is nothing wrong with that.

Sydney United has the best young coach in Australia. They have produced some of the best young players in Australia and have the best privately owned soccer stadium in Australia worth more than 10,000,000 dollars. So what is there that we have to worry about? Ask yourself where would Australian soccer be without Bosnich, Kalac, Juric, Popovic, Zelic, Viduka, Krncevic, Horvat, Babic, Moric, Milicic, Bilokapic, Zdrilic. In the last junior World Cup practically half of the team were of Croatian ancestry. Have a good look at the Australian Olympic and senior teams, and then tell me who has more to worry about, ethnic communities or Mr Hill.

Mario Pospisil,
WERRINGTON COUNTY,
NSW.

SBS Days Numbered

Dear Sir,
As an Australian Soccer supporter, I'd like to continue the support given to David Hill's presidency that has come under attack by certain SBS commentators in the last few weeks. Many people have seen SBS used as a tool recently for protecting the current control 'minority' groups have in Australian soccer. Mr Hill has found himself labelled as a person who has only a short term commitment to the sport, however myself and many others believe this an insult and hope he will take us through to the 2000 Games and into the new millennium.

For many people, 1998 cannot come quick enough as not only should we have hopefully competed in our first World Cup finals in 24 years, but even more significantly for the sport will be the ending of SBS's monopoly of the TV rights for broadcasting Oz soccer.

Come '98 the chance will finally be there to make the big break into commercial television thus shedding the chains of SBS which while important in the development of soccer over the years, has prevented the game being shown to the majority of the population which either can't get SBS or who simply won't watch it.

Channel 9 have already shown interest by televising the Travellers v True Blues series to good ratings, while Channel 7 and 10 would surely see the potential in a summer sport that could be promoted to rival cricket. A commercial TV contract would help bring in both much needed revenue and mainstream exposure sadly lacking at the moment.

Les Murray in his article 10/12/96 defending criticism received recently, tried to paint SBS as the saviour of soccer from the scrap-heap, however times have changed with sport in general (whether it be Cricket, Union, League or Soccer) being a far more profitable exercise for a commercial TV station than it was some 16 years ago before SBS.

While SBS has brought the World Game to Australians, I prefer to think of all the Australians denied the game as a consequence of being on SBS. The break between Oz soccer and SBS when it happens doesn't have to be painful as there is a role for SBS which is to show international football but allow Oz soccer the stage that it deserves, which is commercial TV.

Steven Anderson,
BARDWELL PARK,
N.S.W.

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



The Editor,
AUSTRALIAN &
BRITISH SOCCER
WEEKLY
PO BOX 155,
MARRICKVILLE
NSW 2204
Fax: (02) 9550-9332

Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

CRITICISMS UNCALLED FOR

Dear Sir,

Firstly I would like to back up Les Murray's letter in ABSW (10/12/96). Personally, I believe that on balance the pros of Venables' appointment marginally outweigh the cons. However, I can't believe the nerve of people like Stephen Predry (ABSW 3/10/96) in slagging off Johnny Warren and Les Murray. All of his criticisms are uncalled for. First of all the only ones who would be 'manipulated' by Warren's opinions are those naive enough to not make up their own minds.

He says they have spent too long in their "cushy" jobs. Yet I have watched these guys from my very early childhood up until today and have marvelled at their genuine love for the game in Australian soccer's good and bad times, which is always projected through to the viewer. This is why their views are so strong, because they care so deeply about the real long-term good of the game. Their sticking to their jobs at SBS all these years represents the one thing Australian soccer has always lacked and that is stability.

We all know that Johnny Warren would make a great national coach or Soccer Australia representative, but he has obviously been stuffed around too many times by those at the

top to even waste his time trying.

Stephen Predry obviously forgets that Warren helped provide our finest moment in 1974, so he knows much more than Hill about what it takes to reach a World Cup. Maybe it is not such a bad thing to still be "living in the 1970's" as David Hill puts it.

Let me make a clear distinction between the likes of Warren and Hill. I do not doubt Hill's intentions and have nothing against him but let's face it, if he is ultimately a flop in soccer administration, he has the freedom to walk away and face his next challenge. I doubt he will lose too much sleep because for him, heading Soccer Australia is just like any other business venture. Yet people like Murray, Warren and all the other grass-roots lovers of the game are left to pick up the pieces.

Speaking of which, Les is certainly in touch with grass-roots supporters. A few times my friends and I have made requests for items to appear on World Soccer and Les has always obliged or at least made an effort. And at least he and Johnny have the dignity to accept the appointment of Venables once the decision was made, and urged viewers to get behind him.

Jamie Kyrisis,
BLACK ROCK, VIC.

Choirs of Supporters!

Dear Sir,

I'm going to share a secret with you (sic) in the East, if you (sic) want your teams to perform the supporters must perform. I mean vocal support and loud it's no use blaming your team if they aren't performing, blame yourselves.

At Perth Glory we give our team all the support we can give no matter where they are on the ladder. We sing and shout and have a few laughs because we know we can make a difference and they repay us by putting on a great show, so in the end everyone is happy.

Also it brings in the fans and that's good for the game.

because it's entertaining and that's the bottom line, that means participating, getting involved and adding to the atmosphere, for you can make a difference.

I would like to see all teams in the league have a choir of supporters singing along and supporting their teams, what you'll find is that after a while everyone will start getting involved for I have seen this happen here at Perth Glory.

You can sing about anything it all adds to the atmosphere at our last home game one of the songs we sang was "jingle bells".

So Aussies start singing and getting behind your teams

because for us to get to the next World Cup we must "shout to the top" besides we want Terry Venables to feel at home, now don't we?

I don't expect you in the east to match us here in the west but you could try (that should stir you up).

I'm calling to our brother's in the east to join us, your brother's in the west, and help us make our great game prosper, get behind your teams and soccer as a whole, let's get the ball rolling.

If you point your ears to the west on match days, I'm sure you'll hear the Glory Boys singing.

Paul Bottari,
BALCATT, W.A.

"SAYONARA not AU REVOIR"

Dear Sir,

Regarding Messrs. Thomson and Sermanni's career moves to the Land of the Rising Sun. I see they have both indicated a desire to remain involved in an advisory capacity and look forward to returning at some time in the future to jobs in Australian soccer.

I sincerely hope they do not return to any job provided by Soccer Australia or any Government funded body!

There are plenty of talented coaches in this country who would give their right arm for well paid jobs with security and no real pressure.

I hope the Women's National coaching position is filled by one of these young(ish) coaches.

No doubt Thommo and Tommy will gain great experience overseas, when they return they can use it in the Ericsson Cup or suchlike, as positions regularly become available.

Terry Kennedy,
NTH ROCKHAMPTON, QLD.



Johnny Warren (L) and Les Murray (R) have come in for some criticism over their remarks of late however there are just as many supporters of these fine commentators.



Excellence from Academy

Dear Sir,

I would like to expand on my earlier correspondence in regards to the Football Academy of Excellence.

I for one, would like to congratulate Leon (Gardikiotis) and Vince (Colagiuri) for a successful six week program. Being a coach myself I witnessed the improvement from all the kids.

Most important it was refreshing to see how the young players were willing to learn and participate in the various skills. Even the older boys (15-17) showed a lot of enthusiasm and interest.

Both delivered what they promised at the start of the program which is

commendable. Other players like Craig Foster and co. should provide support and participate in the Academy. My personal feeling is the video released by them is fine, but wasted on young players. Person to person is the most successful way.

To finish off I must agree with L. Anich (A matter of opinion, Dec 17, 1996), the rubbish produced by your Mr Henry Wiggler does nothing for your publication and my suggestion to him: Research and be less hostile.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Good Coming Year!

Ted Lange,
TAFE, NSW.

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RESULTS & SCORERS

ROUND ELEVEN

Newcastle Breakers 3
(Pryce 67, Zane 72, Bennett 78)
Sydney United 1
(Milicic 54)
Crowd: 4,225



Wollongong City 2
(Perinich 50, Horsley 87)
Canberra Cosmos 1
(Lemezina 79)
Crowd: 3,467



Brisbane Strikers 5
(Farina 7, 49; Battistin 24 pen, Slater 78, Wehrman 83)
Collingwood Warriors 2
(Vlahos 19, 36)
Crowd: 4,194



South Melbourne 1
(Coveny 64)
Perth Glory 0
Crowd: TBA



Marconi Fairfield 5
(Babic 11, 75; Awaritefe 33; Harper 67; Maloney 87)
UTS Olympic 1
(Tome 65)
Crowd: TBA



Frank Farina scored two goals for Brisbane Strikers

NEXT WEEK'S FIXTURES

PRICES SUPPLIED BY **SPORTODDS**

PERTH GLORY V MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

SATURDAY 28 DECEMBER 1996 - 5.00PM
Perth Glory 4/5, Draw 5/2, Melbourne Knights 3/1

CANBERRA COSMOS V SOUTH MELBOURNE

SATURDAY 28 DECEMBER 1996 - 7.00PM
Canberra Cosmos 2/1, Draw 9/4, South Melbourne 5/4

GIPPSLAND FALCONS V BRISBANE STRIKERS

SATURDAY 28 DECEMBER 1996 - 7.30PM
Gippsland Falcons 7/4, Draw 2/1, Brisbane Strikers 6/4

UTS OLYMPIC V NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER 1996 - 6.30PM
UTS Olympic 4/6, Draw 9/4, Newcastle Breakers 4/1

WEST ADELAIDE V MARCONI FAIRFIELD

SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER 1996 - 7.30PM
West Adelaide 6/4, Draw 9/4, Marconi Fairfield 6/4

COLLINGWOOD V WOLLONGONG CITY

SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER 1996 - 6.00PM
Collingwood 6/4, Draw 2/1, Wollongong City 6/4

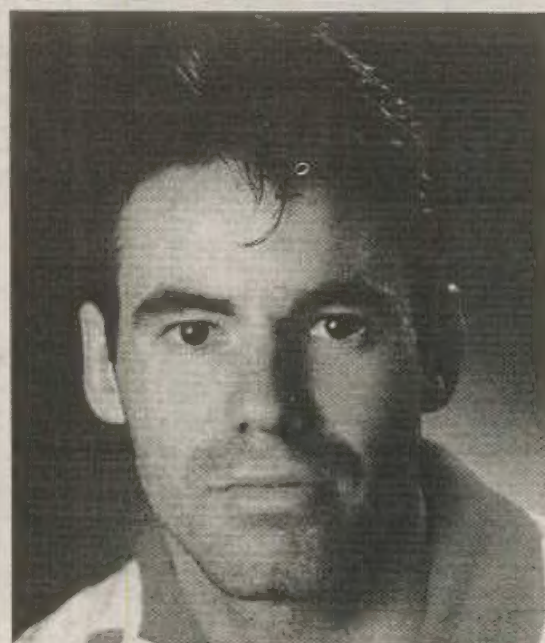
SYDNEY UNITED V ADELAIDE CITY

SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER 1996 6.30PM
Sydney United 1/2, Draw 5/2, Adelaide City 4/1

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Ante Milicic: Sydney United

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	11	9	1	1	34	15	28
Brisbane Strikers	11	8	2	1	27	13	26
South Melbourne	11	5	3	3	14	10	18
Marconi Fairfield	11	5	2	4	18	16	17
Wollongong City	11	4	5	2	15	13	17
Perth Glory	11	5	1	5	25	19	16
Adelaide City	10	4	3	3	9	7	15
UTS Olympic	10	4	2	4	15	18	14
Newcastle Breakers	12	2	5	5	18	22	11
Gippsland Falcons	10	2	4	4	10	14	10
West Adelaide	10	3	1	6	12	19	10
Collingwood Warriors	10	2	4	4	12	21	10
Melbourne Knights	10	2	3	5	7	12	9
Canberra Cosmos	12	0	4	8	11	28	4

NAME	TEAM	GOALS
David Zdrilic	Sydney United	12
Bobby Despotovski	Perth Glory	9
Ante Milicic	Sydney United	7
Frank Farina	Brisbane Strikers	6
Rodney Brown	Brisbane Strikers	6
Paul Strudwick	Perth Glory	6
Norman Tome	UTS Olympic	6
Jason Bennett	Newcastle Breakers	5
Matthew Horsley	Wollongong City	5
Norman Kelly	Canberra Cosmos	4
Eddie Knezevic	Gippsland Falcons	4
Dino Mennin	Adelaide City	4
Kimon Jalinigros	Collingwood Warriors	4
Kris Trajanowski	UTS Olympic	4
Jimmy Tsakinis	West Adelaide	4

AROUND THE CLUBS

Knights President Resigns

By DWIGHT TUFFNELL
Melbourne Knights president, Angie Cimera, resigned at the club's Annual General Meeting on Sunday December, 15.

The reigning champion's season is going from bad to worse but this latest twist could see more changes made at Knights Stadium.

Cimera was a big supporter of Ian Dobson but now he has departed, the Coach's future with the club may come under scrutiny. Dobson however, is confident of keeping his job as he looks to Ghana and England for a striker to ease their goalscoring woes.

Cimera stood down claiming that he could not work with four of the nine current board members. He also stated that he did not have the full backing of the board and did not want to continue under the circumstances.

A disappointing turn up of around 90 members (from close to 1000) and most of them refused to accept Cimera's resignation, starting a petition to call an Extraordinary General Meeting of all Knights members.

The meeting was originally intended to declare the Melbourne Knights Soccer Club organisation separate from the Melbourne Croatia Social Club.

The Knights had promised at the start of the season to open its arms to people outside of the Croatian community and its new image and facilities at Knights Stadium have been well received by everyone.

The club, so often at odds with Soccer Australia, was forced to change its logo at the start of the season and is still on good behaviour bond from last years Grand Final at Olympic Park.

Cimera said that he did not want to go after the trouble with Soccer Australia and the bond, but in the end, had little other choice. Cimera recommended vice president Steve Mandekic take the presidency in a caretaker role. Mandekic has said that is up to the board to elect a new president. It seems likely that the meeting to elect the new president won't be held for at least another three weeks.

VICTORIAN SOCCER FEDERATION

By DWIGHT TUFFNELL
Joe Brondolino was the surprise choice as Chairman of the Victorian Soccer Federation at its Annual General Meeting.



Brondolino, a solicitor, had previously served on the VSF's tribunal board.

Of the five candidates, Brondolino and former Socceroo goalkeeper Jack Reilly were expected to contest the chairmanship. Reilly had become the favourite after Victorian Premier and Honorary Executive President of the VSF, Jeff Kenett, nominated him as the best man for the job.

Susanne Jones, wife of former CEO Terry Jones, withdrew from the candidacy before the meeting. Mr Jones

had come to an agreement with the VSF over payment after he had been sacked by Henry Siwka. He did not seek reinstatement to the position currently held by Geoff Miles.

former chairmen Siwka and Joe Caruso were both knocked out of the voting early to leave Brondolino and Reilly to fight it out.

Had Reilly won the chairmanship, he would have relinquished his position as a director of the Carlton Soccer Club.

The VSF overhaul also included the election of six commissioners as part of the administration restructure. They are: Vasco Stojcevski, Jason Hoar, Manny Galanos, Phil Randall, Tony Dunkerley and Sam David.

Harris is coming back

By GLENN DAVIS
Former Marconi midfielder, Jeromy Harris could soon press for selection in the Strikers starting eleven after a successful comeback for the Queensland Academy Of Sport recently.

Harris' return was welcomed by coach Frank Farina, who has had a horror run with injuries in the past few weeks.

The Strikers were without key players Glen Gwynne, Rod Brown and Socceroo Sean Cranney in their 5-1 thumping by Perth Glory, then had keeper Clint Bolton injured in training. Bolton who suffered a shoulder injury is expected to be sidelined for up to a month, a similar period to Cranney, who is out with an ankle ligament strain.

Bolton's place has been filled by former Queensland keeper Graham Ross, who produced a fine display against Canberra and won't be relinquishing his long awaited chance in the Strikers goal too easily.

Rockhampton born Harris

was spotted by former Australian coach and the then Marconi boss Frank Arok during a Central Queensland visit a few seasons ago.

Harris accepted a Marconi scholarship with the club's youth team before eventually breaking into the first eleven at the end of the 1994-95 season.

However, Harris missed most of last season with a severe hernia problem and struggled to break into Manfred Scahaefer's new look team.

The 21-year-old exercise physiologist with the Queensland University of Technology, played in the Brisbane Fourx League season last year with the newly promoted Beenleigh before joining the Strikers.

However, Harris' return to the national league took a setback when he suffered a recurrence of his hernia problem during the preseason.

Strikers skipper Alan Hunter, is now sporting a "Skull Murphy" look, which seems to be gathering cult status amongst a number of Ericsson Cup players.

SINOZIC TARGETTED BY PSG

By PHIL MURPHY

Within hours of being selected in the Australian squad for the World Youth Cup qualifying series Wollongong's Sebastian Sinozic has been targeted by French giants Paris St Germaine. Sinozic was included in the 18 man squad to fly to Tahiti on Friday and described it as a dream come true.

He said he had set himself a target of making the squad and ultimately wanted to win an overseas contract.

The French club are sending a representative to Australia to watch Sinozic in action. They have received glowing reports on the 20 year old Wolves sweeper.

Sinozic started his career with St George juniors and played in the State Super League with Parramatta. He moved to Wollongong to have a crack at the Ericsson Cup and coach Nick Theodorakopoulos believes he has what it takes to go a step or two further. Theodorakopoulos said he had watched Sinozic closely in the youth team this season.

"He is a very talented young man and I expect to have him in my senior side before the end of the season," the coach said.

"He is already training with us and looks very comfortable on the ball and certainly has a football brain. I'm not surprised that an overseas club is already interested in him."

Sinozic told ABSW he had already experienced playing in Europe, having spent six months with German second division club Uerdigen, the club former Wolves midfielder Robbie Middleby is playing with. Unfortunately the youngster was forced to return home because of a family problem.

"I enjoyed the experience and want to have another go," Sinozic said.

"In the meantime, I am hoping to make the Australian starting eleven and hope we can qualify for the finals in Malaysia."

The Wolves are on the internet and creating plenty of interest. After just 10 days "on the net" the club discovered there had been



inquiries from as far away as the US and England. Club marketing manager John Denison said he had been surprised by the response.

"It was something we went into 'cold' and didn't know what to expect," Denison said.

"Within 10 days, there had been 1372 hits or inquiries to our number. There are many ways the club can promote itself on the Internet." People on the Internet can check on the progress of the team, the players, merchandising and many other aspects of the operation.

The Wolves are being looked after by Wollongong company Unitech and managing director Vince Iacovelli gave players, officials, fans and the Wollongong media a rundown during a recent launch. He said he was certain the club would benefit in many ways by being on the Internet. Club chairman Brian Hastings was keen to have a progress score system implemented. Hastings said it was almost impossible for supporters to get progress scores when the team was playing interstate.

"I am hoping this new technology will help in that department."

Strikers unhappy with selections

By GLENN DAVIS

Ericsson Cup high flyers Brisbane Strikers was rocked by the failure of any of its players to make new coach Terry Venables' first Socceroo squad for next month's four-nation series.

Sydney United hot shot David Zdrilic, the league's top scorer with 12 goals, teammate Mark Babic and Marconi's Sean Babic were the only newcomers chosen for the home series which will also involve Norway, South Korea and New Zealand.

The entire 22 man squad play in Australia. The European based Socceroos are to play Croatia in Split in February and Hungary in Budapest in March.

Venables, the former England coach, relied heavily on the advice of assistant coach Raul Blanco in picking the squad.

But Strikers officials reacted with stunned disbelief

to the news that none of their players had been included.

"I can't criticise Venables because I don't think he really picked the side," said Brusasco, "but I'm very critical of those who assisted him. I don't know who really picked the side, but it's obvious they haven't seen the Strikers play much."

Brusasco said young Strikers' sweeper Glen Gwynne should have been one of the first chosen along with the two Cranney brothers.

Sean and Troy, and even outstanding midfielder Kasey Wehrman.



Troy Cranney: Strikers President believed he deserved to be picked for socceroos.

Pele, god to many

... BY BOB BROOKS

he name is one of the most recognisable in World Sport. The player the most gifted of all players. The man warm hearted and humble.

Born Edson Arantes do Nascimento on October 23, 1940. The name of the place of his birth was Tres Coracoes a small town in Minas Gerais state.

His father Joao called 'Dondinho' was a semi professional footballer. Celeste was his mother. They moved to a bigger town called Bauru when the boy was six.

This was where he learned to play without goalposts, fields, coaches, referees, uniforms, shin guards, directors or leagues. The games took place in the streets and the players were barefoot.

As Pele says, "what we had was freedom to play and to create happiness and to enjoy life!"

Saldanha, a former Brazil team manager said of Pele. "If you ask me the best full back in Brazil, I will say Pele. If you ask me who is the best wing half, I would say Pele. Who is the best winger? Pele. And probably the best goalkeeper is Pele. He is like no other player."

Saldanha continued, "He is so Brazilian football what Shakespeare is to English literature." This from a man whose relationship with the wunderkinder was never blissful.

In all games he scored over 1000 goals. 68 for his country, 14 for the Army, 426 in the Sao Paulo Championship, 269 in friendlies for Santos against

non-Brazilian teams and the rest in a variety of other games for Santos.

Only one other player was able to be compared to the great one in the 50s, 60s, Alfredo di Stefano. He was a superb Argentine but lacked the grace of Pele. To see the Brazilian in full flight sent a shiver down the spine.

As a 17 year old Pele burst onto centre stage at the 1958 World Cup Finals in Sweden. Amongst such contemporaries as Djalma, Nilton Santos, Didi, Garrincha (little bird), Vava and Zagola the teenager proved his class. He capped off his initial appearances in international football with two goals in the World Cup Final victory over Sweden.

At 13 his Dad signed him up with the Noroeste youth team and a year later after Pele had grabbed nine goals in an 11-0 win, Waldemar de Brito, one of Brazil's pre Second World War greats took him under his wing.

Pele's mentor recommended him to Santos although the young man fancied playing for Vasco de Gama. His mother was less than impressed. At least at Santos he wouldn't be far from home.

So at 14 Pele 'signed' for Santos. The next year he joined the Santos youth set up. Coincidentally the club won the Sao Paulo championship for the first time in twenty years after their last title.

They took it again in 1956 with Pele in the side! He was on his way.

By 1957 Edson Arantes completed 71 games for Santos and claimed 63 goals.

In the same year he made his international debut and scored.

By 1958 his superb skills were seen by a wider audience as he represented Brazil in the World Cup held in Sweden. His seven international appearances brought him 10 goals to add to his 80 in 65 games for his Club.

Santos won the Sao Paulo championship while Brazil took home their first Jules Rimet Trophy as World Champions. Pele scored a hat-trick against France in a Semi final and a further two in the final as Sweden were beaten 5-2 by Brazil. Remember he was still only 17 years of age.

WHY PELE?

All Brazilian athletes are known by a nickname. Some have meaning, others are simply a name. Pele has no idea why or where his came from or what it means.

It is probably true to say that Edson Arantes has the most recognisable tag of any athlete in the history of the



A typical Pele headed goal in his early days playing for Santos



Nascimento family L to R: Dad Dondinho, Edson Arantes (Pele), Mother Celeste, and his younger sister.

World.

His first coach at Santos was known as Lula. One of his first team mates was Tite others were Jair, Helvio, Formica and Dalmo.

In the 1958 Brazil team were such memorable names as Zito, Didi, Vava, Garrincha and that's as they appeared on the team sheet. Unique and simple.

It is reported that in 1958 Garrincha was paid about \$1200 a month while Didi earned \$2500.

The television fees for the 1958 World Cup were just \$210,000. Hard to believe that figure was so low but then the entertainment device was still in its infancy.

ADULATION FOR TEENAGER

When Brazil returned as World Champions in 1958, after twice before being beaten finalists, there were over one million people to greet their motorcade in Rio de Janeiro.

People danced in the streets of Rio, Sao Paulo and Santos. The country awarded him the Brazilian Gold Medal. The Presidents 15 year old

daughter, just two years younger than the recipient, presented one of the highest honours to the slim youngster.

Before every match he used to disappear for half an hour. He was praying for victory in any nearby church. Meanwhile his mother, Celeste spent the entire 90 minutes of his games also praying. Not only for victory of her son's team but to ask that her little one be kept as he is. In order not to spoil him with success.

His mother's prayers appeared to be answered.

At the time several thousand letters a day were being delivered to Pele and he became the idol of thousands of the most beautiful girls in Brazil.

WORLD TOURS

Club teams from Brazil were in great demand after the 1958 triumph. Santos, until the arrival of Pele amongst their ranks, a modest club, embarked on these trips. They were paid reasonable sums for appearances in Europe but the idea was brand new and no one understood their true worth.

The fast jet airliner had only just started to come into service but fares were still expensive. At least these jets cut travel time down substantially. In 1958 the journey time from London to New York was about 14 hours with stops required in Ireland to refuel and then in Newfoundland to top up.

A twenty four hour stopover was necessary in New York before embarking for the journey to San Francisco. Again two refuelling stops were required. Elapsed time was in the order of 10 to 12 hours depending on headwinds.

The arrival of the Boeing 707 and the Douglas DC8 cut in half those times, making more feasible tours by club sides.

In 1959 Santos FC played a phenomenal 83 games with the 'Black Pearl' finding the net 60 times. A further eight goals came for the national team from eight international matches. Bear in mind Pele celebrated his 19th birthday this year!

Santos won five separate tournaments in Costa Rica, Mexico, Spain with one at home in Brazil.

(to be continued)

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Seen pulling on Santos shirt as a raw 16 year old.

CLUBS TARGET THE FUTURE

By JODEE ROGERS

For Soccer to become big in Australia we have to look at ways of marketing the sport to children. They are the future of the game and by targeting them early enough will hopefully instil in them a life long passion that will be handed down from generation to generation.

Soccer is like music, it is a universal language, it doesn't matter where in the world you are, there will always be kids kicking around a ball in their local park or in the suburban cul-de-sac where they live.

Soccer Australia, the clubs and we the media all need to join forces and cooperate with each other to show a united front that we are genuinely serious about the growth of Soccer in our country.

When elected as Chairman of Soccer Australia, David Hill stated, "My aim is to make Soccer not only part of mainstream Australian sport but also part of mainstream Australian Society."

It was good to see that when approached, most clubs were eager to talk about how they are going out into their individual communities promoting the game to the younger generation, the players and supporters of the future.

ADELAIDE CITY

Within Adelaide City the management believe that nine and ten year olds are the most impressionable age group to target. This makes primary

school visits a must on their agenda. At this level the two main sports played are Soccer and Basketball and the push is on to keep Soccer number one as this age group move into high school.

At the school visits kids can learn Soccer skills from some of Adelaide City's first eleven and giveaways of merchandise are handed out freely to the youngsters. They will in turn hopefully go home and pressure their parents into taking them to the next home game.

Once at the game, half time entertainment includes kids having the opportunity of taking part in a penalty shoot out and Zippy the Zebra is always on hand to make the experience more enjoyable for them.

BRISBANE STRIKERS

At the Brisbane Strikers club the philosophy is that games are family events. There is the Optus Fun Park for kids up to twelve years old to play in, which is run by a company who specialise in entertaining children. The Fun Park is free and fully supervised. Thor, the Strikers mascot amuses them as well. The Strikers Fan Club runs a junior Supporters Club.

Coaching Clinics in schools are held by the four youth players known as 'The Young Guns', Kasey Wehrman, Mathew Bell, Wayne Knipe and Chay Hews who along with Gary Phillips the Schools Development Officer prove to be a powerful promotional tool.

CANBERRA COSMOS

In our Capital city, the Cosmos have a School Visit program coordinated by Mike Lyons and the ACT Soccer Federation. Full time players as well as Paul Wade who under a formal arrangement is used on a promotional basis go out to the local schools.

Coaching clinics are held every school holidays with up to 100 kids involved. These clinics use their own players as coaches but also call on the skills of others in the local area.

The Clinic program is also starting in some towns in Southern NSW such as Wagga, Albury and Griffith as Cosmos is the closest club to this vicinity.

The Cosmos Supporters club runs a Kids Club which includes a zone at the home ground where children can watch the game with others in their own supervised area. Home games provide the total family package with free face painting and half time entertainment.

COLLINGWOOD WARRIORS

The Warriors are in the final stages of developing the Coca Cola sponsored 'Kick It' program. This will target kids with shopping centre visits, season passes and 'Fan of the Day' for a youngster between 8 and 16 having the chance to run out with the Warriors at their next home game. Portable trailers are being designed to open up like goal mouths as

part of the program.

School visits are run in mainly the northern and eastern suburbs of Melbourne but if requests come from other areas they are definitely followed up.

Training camps will be starting in holiday periods and carnival entertainment at home games are being looked into. It is a firm belief that if the children can be converted to Soccer they will in turn bring their parents to games.

GIPPSLAND FALCONS

School visits are held during the season with Frank Arok and local based players. Visits by schools are also held at Falcons Stadium. At these visits many tickets are given away to games.

During the school holidays, coaching clinics are held as well as shopping centre visits with players spending two hours each day for 4-5 days involving kids in ball skills and various giveaways.

Melbourne based players are also used for promotions at community festivals where players of different codes of Football are called upon.

MARCONI FAIRFIELD

The Stallions support 5,000 juniors within their region through an affiliation with the Southern Districts Soccer Club which encompasses all facets of junior development and promotion of the game. All registered players within the Southern District clubs receive a season pass to all home games.

Brendan Renaud, the Schools Development Officer collates requests from schools, sporting clubs and junior affiliated organisations and responds accordingly. Requests range from public speaking to coaching sessions. At these events stickers, free tickets to matches and other giveaways are distributed.

Coaching clinics are held every school holidays and are conducted with members of the first grade team. Season tickets are issued to every participant along with other promotional items.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

School visits are conducted with players from both the Senior and youth teams involved. Clinics are held throughout the western suburbs of Melbourne. At these the Knights go through a few skill drills and finish with having a mini match.

At the conclusion of the session complimentary passes to home games and 'Snickers' chocolate bars are handed out and autographs are signed. A coaching manual and clipboard are given to the school.

NEWCASTLE TOPPER BREAKERS

The Breakers believe in establishing tradition and history and are involved in many promotional activities in the Hunter region. They have visited 150-200 schools and clubs in the last twelve months.

Coaching clinics are very popular with 600 kids wanting to participate in June but unfortunately 200-300 kids had to be knocked back. Merchandising kits and autographed balls are given away for charity purposes. 10,000 Greater Breaker

season passes were given away to all registered players in the region.

According to coach, John Kosmina more emphasis has to be placed on skill and not on winning and he implants this in his players. He feels that sometimes children are rewarded too easily and getting trophies without achieving too much, it is necessary for them to realise that they have to work for their rewards.

PERTH GLORY

Over in Perth, the newcomers to the league believe that people going to games today expect more than just to watch a match between two teams. They want the full package from the moment they enter the ground right through to the time they leave.

At every home match all children Under 7 are admitted free, performing artists such as clowns, jugglers, fire eaters and stilt walkers roam the ground. A musician/entertainer is on ground to encourage spectator participation. A special 'Children Only' area right next to the action on the actual pitch is also a highlight.

Other promotions aimed at children are the formation of a Junior Supporters Club, complimentary children's passes given to primary schools in outlying suburban areas and a 'Meet The Players BBQ' where children can talk to the players and take challenges against them.

School Visits are run for three 1-hour sessions per class group. The program features an introduction to the game for younger children, basic skills including dribbling, passing and controlling passes and then moves on to ball juggling, match simulations and advanced dribbling skills. The aim of the program is to introduce the game to kids who have never played before with an emphasis on participation and fun.

A week long live-in training camp is coming up in these holidays where participants will meet players and have indoor/outdoor sessions focussing on improving player's skills. It will also include a section for goalkeepers and all sessions will be fully supervised by qualified coaches and national league players. A personal fitness profile for each player and talks on sports nutrition, exercise and motivation will be provided.

SOUTH MELBOURNE LAKERS

South Melbourne are considered to be one of the country's leading profile clubs. Their supporter base in Australia may exceed all other clubs currently participating in the League. To maintain this popularity it is important that they constantly visit schools for coaching clinics, junior soccer clubs for talks, presentation nights and guest speaking sport nights.

Tours of the Lakeside Stadium are also encouraged which show player facilities, medical and drug testing rooms, corporate and hospitality areas.

Barry Horsfall, Marketing Manager of South Melbourne is convinced that Soccer is tabled at most boardroom meetings of the AFL, Rugby, Basketball and Baseball. He believes that the 21st century will be the aim for Soccer to become fully professional and will not be satisfied with the results until then.

UTS OLYMPIC

UTS have long been regarded as a leader in innovative promotions. The club is currently involved in shopping centre promotions, school visits, coaching clinics and a variety of other promotions including school presentations, fetes, hospital visits and sporting clubs.

The club currently fields teams in the U13 to U16 age group in the NSW Super Youth League competition. But although they have no direct association with junior teams (U6 to U12), UTS are looking at establishing much closer links with surrounding local establishments.

In 1997 the club is putting in place junior Coaching Clinics to cater for 1200 participants as well as school programs for both primary and high schools.

WEST ADELAIDE

The Sharks encourage School visits and ring Sports Teachers in the district to put together all day programs. Players follow up a School visit the next week by usually dropping in at lunch time to see the kids. The visits are usually held during March and April as February is too hot.

West Adelaide feel that there is a huge untapped market for the expansion of the game within the Asian society and are working closely with the Vietnamese community which have their own camps where they provide coaching.

At each game all kids Under 12 get in free and at half time Roo Ball, with modified soccer rules, is played between two schools for ten minutes. This is good for getting more people to the games as all the family of the participants in Roo Ball get in free.

Through the Sharks sponsor, John West, the players have been doing Shopping Centre visits where they have goals set up and kids can have a go at scoring. A competition is also under way where the prize is for a child to kick off the game, whilst his parents are entertained in the corporate box. After the game the child and his parents will get to meet all the players.

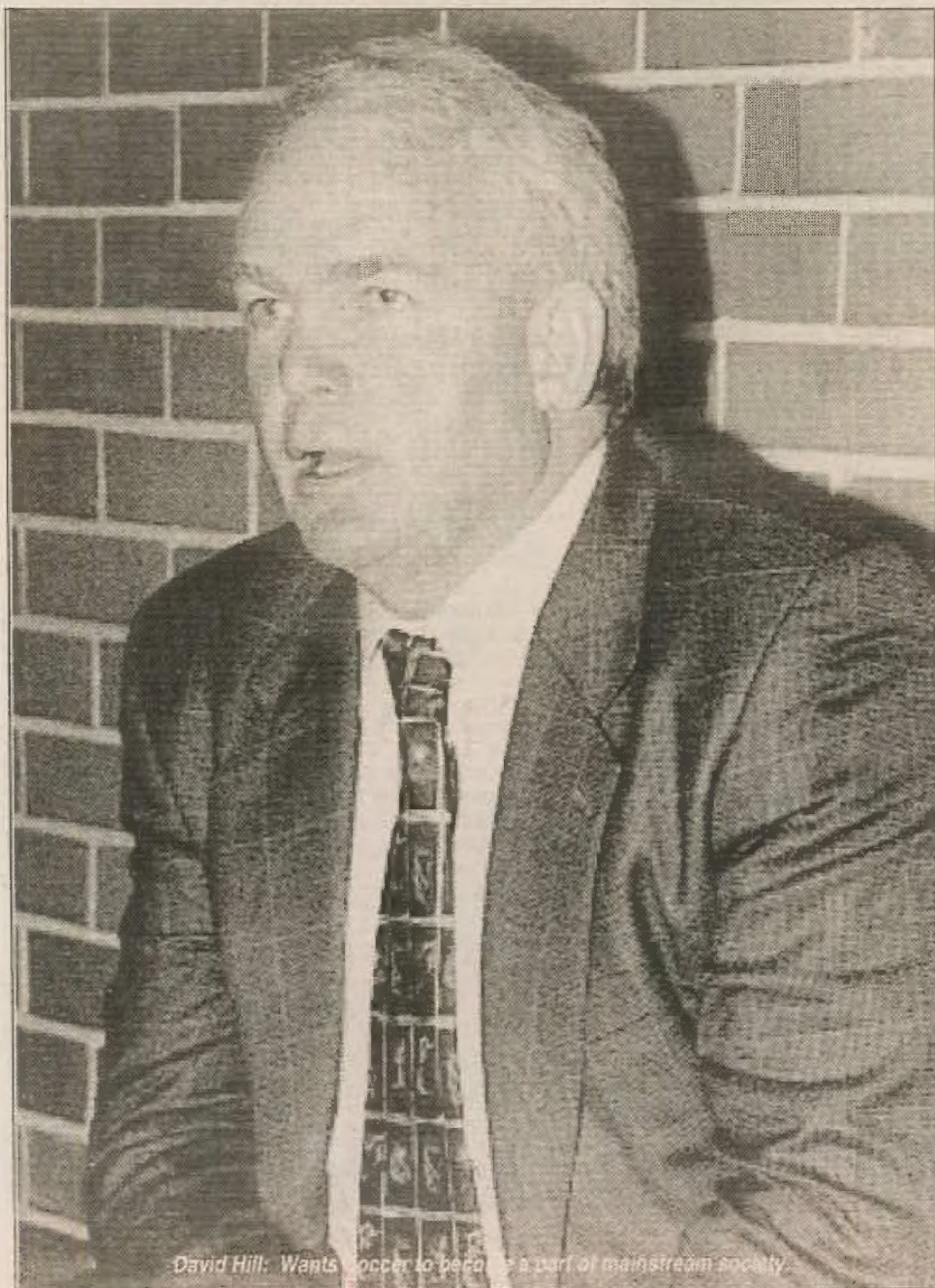
WOLLONGONG CITY

The Wolves are by far leading the way in their home game promotional activities. They believe in the more traditional approach of marketing Soccer to the adults because ultimately they decide what their kids do.

Six schools a week and three coaching clinics are held during the school holidays. These Christmas holidays they will be held in Moss Vale, Camden and Wollongong. They are never over \$75 per week and players from the first eleven are always available.

Wollongong also liaise heavily with their local media, newspapers and radio stations Power FM, I98 and Wave FM. Media releases are put out twice a week. Competitions are also run through the media including a trip to New Zealand and free mobile phones, the catch being you have to be at the game.

At the game there is free face painting, sumo wrestling suit challenges and the popular wolf chase where Under 11s run after the mascot and whoever captures his tail wins \$10. Giveaways include free season tickets to Under 16s.



David Hill: Wants soccer to become a part of mainstream society.

ONE CLUB PER CITY

— BY HENRY WIZGIER —

Michael Cockerill of the Sydney Morning Herald touched on what I believe is the next big issue which will have to be tackled in Aussie soccer, and soon.

Reporting on Sydney United's 7-0 massacre of Collingwood he wrote:

"It has been a long time since a team has looked so out of its depth at this level. - a message perhaps to Soccer Australia that the competition for all it's progress off the pitch, cannot sustain 14 teams".

It has been suggested before that Australian Soccer can support no more than one professional club per city and I agree with that view. I don't think we need to look far at the 'con's' of such an idea - part-time professionalism, low crowds etc. Let's take a look at the 'pro's'.

Before contemplating major changes it often helps to look at other models and I believe Soccer Australia should take a close look at two, Major League Soccer in the USA and closer to home, the AFL.

US NATIONAL LEAGUE

Firstly, the MLS, the American national soccer competition which has just completed it's inaugural season.

Soccer over there suffers from the same disadvantages as it does here, for AFL and rugby league, read grid iron, baseball, basketball, ice-hockey etc. Yet, despite the fact that the USA is nearly twenty times more populous and soccer is far more popular than it is here, they have a smaller National League than ours, only 10 teams.

New York metropolitan area has a population equal to the whole of Australia's, yet it has just one team in the National League, NY/NJ Mets. Sydney, with a quarter of New York's population has 3 teams. Melbourne, with a fifth of NY's population also has 3 and a fourth one planned for next season.

The Americans, by keeping down the number of clubs in their national League are getting gates which throughout the inaugural season have averaged over 20,000. This enables them to attract the mainstream media and corporate backing which in turn enables them to run a fully professional league, thereby persuading most of their best players to stay at home. You don't see many Americans playing in the English First Division because they can earn more in the MLS.

AUSSIE RULES OK

One thing most Australian soccer followers seem to agree on now, is that clubs representing ethnic groups belong to the pre-glacial age. But, they want them to be

replaced with clubs that represent neighbourhoods. That would be OK if we had neighbourhoods that contain enough soccer supporters to fill decent-sized stadiums, like they do in London or Buenos Aires. Or Aussie rules fans do in Melbourne.

But Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide each have barely enough soccer followers in their entire metropolitan areas to fill one, moderately-sized stadium.

Sometimes, it's helpful to look at other sports and one which invites immediate comparisons on this issue is Aussie Rules. Surely nobody would argue that the aerial ping-pong game is less popular than soccer in Sydney? Yet, Sydney's one and only National AFL club the Swans have managed to draw 20,000 crowds regularly and over 40,000 for the 'biggies'. 'Would Sydney Swans have got these sort of crowds for their games if they had other clubs to compete with in Sydney?

I doubt it, because just like the Sydney Kings basketball team, they can claim to represent the whole metropolitan area and so they get fans coming in all the way from Penrith.

The AFL are smart enough to know that Sydney has very few 'footie' fans and therefore it would be stupid to even think about running more than one professional club in their league, at this stage. Does the AFL look at Melbourne, with it's multitude of clubs representing neighbourhoods for Sydney's role model? No, they look at reality which is that Sydney, is not a city of four million people but an absolute maximum of approx 40,000 footie fans.

In soccer language too, Sydney is not a metropolis, but a small city with an absolute top maximum of 40,000 potential soccer-paying customers. But to draw them out takes no less than AC Milan and Argentina plus Maradona.

More realistically we have to look at the recent Olympic qualifier against Canada which drew 25,000 (mostly) Sydneysiders to the SFS. There was no Maradona or glamour team to attract them that day. It wasn't even the full Australian national side. The fans didn't come to support their ethnic tribe either. These were 25,000 (mostly) Sydneysiders who came to support a quality Australian team playing for something tangible.

I believe that if Sydney could provide one good quality professional soccer team which truly did represent the entire Sydney metropolitan area, this team might just get the mainstream media behind them. Mainstream corporate types would follow and I also do believe that approximately the same 25,000 true soccer spectators who came to watch the Olympic team, would also make the trip to the SFS.

This situation would be the same in Melbourne too.

LOCAL DERBIES

"What about local derbies?" is bound to be the most common argument against having only one club per city. My answer to that is, stop looking at Glasgow, Liverpool and Milan-type derbies. Instead, let's aim for Spanish-type derbies of the Real Madrid v Barcelona variety. Australia has one of the great inter-city rivalries, between Sydney and Melbourne, in everything except sport, and that is slowly being rectified by Aussie Rules. Let's get in there quickly before rugby league also beats us to it and establishes a true Melbourne club.

If this Sydney v Melbourne rivalry can be adapted to soccer - the prospects are quite mouth watering. Who would miss the Marconi v UTS or Lakers v Knights derbies with their paltry 10,000, when you could fill the SFS or Bob Jane and have it televised live nationally. We really could be looking at an Antipodean equivalent of Liverpool v Manchester (United) or Marseilles versus Paris (St. Germaine) or Amsterdam (Ajax) v Rotterdam (Feyenoord).

MAINSTREAM FLAGSHIPS

David Hill is a shrewd manouvreur and the only sense to be made out of his move in allowing even more clubs into an already over-large and under-fed Ericsson League, is the hope that these 'Mainstream' clubs will squeeze out and eventually replace the old ethnic set-ups, thus saving him the trouble of having to throw them out, as he did Parramatta Eagles, Heidelberg and Melbourne SC.

But, it could backfire on him thanks to Sods Law. Just look at who is running away with the Ericsson Cup at the moment? Sydney United, the club the 'Mainstream' advocates' love to hate most. This, following two title wins by the second most hated club among the Mainstream brigade, Melbourne Knights.

The Mainstream flagship Collingwood was launched in the hope that it would attract the tiny Corporate Soccer Dollar away from the Greeks, Croats and Italians in Melbourne thus providing the Victorian capital with a true-blue Aussie soccer club at last. After a brilliant launch, it is in danger of running aground.

It's not enough to have a 'Mainstream True Blue All-Aussie Club' even one that bears the name of Australia's largest football club, in any code. To get that Mainstream Aussie Dollar, they've got to win the Ericsson Cup first. But fate, is determined that the Ericsson Cup will remain the property of the clubs who are least likely to draw Mainstream Aussie support, never mind Mainstream Sponsorship.

Next season Melbourne



Andrew Shue: The Melbourne Knights' first player.

plan to launch yet another Mainstream ship, Carlton. As soon as a group of rich enthusiasts in Sydney can be persuaded to put up the cash, no doubt we will have still another club vying for the minuscule Aussie Soccer Dollar. But, where are the players going to come from? Further words from the word-processor of Michael Cockerill.

"...their (Collingwood) good players were bad, but their bad players were embarrassing". In other words, behind the cavalry of Taliadores and Lozanovski, they have a bunch of foot soldiers who are just not up to it. Carlton too will no doubt sign a couple of proven big names and then make up the numbers by scouring the public parks of Melbourne and who knows, even public schools?

And yet, the evidence points to things getting even worse still. With Eddie Thomson opening the door for Aussies in Japan through Tony Popovic, we could be seeing yet another channel for taking out the flow of Aussie soccer talent.

I believe this will be the case, because the one department where the east

Asians know they are way behind the rest of the world, is the physical side of the game. This has just been painfully driven home to them by the more European-style approach of the Arabs in the Asian Cup.

Aussies of course play that game very well and please consider, as soon as it hits the Japs that Popovic's grow on trees here and can be bought for the price of second-hand Corolla's, it will be "sayonara" to another Aussie player every other week. (The other week he'll be off to a mediocre league in Europe of course).

INTER-CONTINENTAL CUP

There is yet another reason for concentrating what's left of our talented players into as few clubs as possible and paying them to stay here. Something which has been overlooked and probably will be until the eve of the event.

From next year FIFA is about to expand the Inter-Continental Club Championship (Toyota Cup) to include the Champion

Clubs of Asia, Africa and North America. Initially, it will not include the champions of Oceania because we don't have one. FIFA will not accept Australian opinion that Melbourne Knights are the Kings of all the Islands.

However, once Charlie Dempsey can get an Oceanian Champions Cup off the ground, we are talking of seeing your favourite Australian suburban clubs playing against the likes of Juventus, River Plate, Ajax or Sao Paulo for real silverware and real money! They won't be pussy-footing around like Euro clubs usually do when they come down here for an out-of-season 'tour'.

This, will be the first time in history that Australian clubs will play foreign clubs in real competition. A baptism of fire, straight in at the deep-end, call it what you will.

But, the way the player drain is going, who can guarantee that in a few years time, the Australian champions won't be at the same level as the Collingwood team which got hit for 7 by Sydney United?

Would you like to see a team like that representing Australian soccer against Juventus? It would be like

sending in brownies against a Nazi Panzer division.

EIGHT TEAM LEAGUE

My suggestion is a National Championship of just 8 teams, only two fewer than the National soccer league in USA. It would also be only one less than the Korean professional Soccer League, (which has the strange number of 9 teams), and we are talking about a country of 45 million people who are passionate about the game.

The eight teams would be one each from Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, Canberra, Wollongong (or Newcastle) and if possible, Auckland, New Zealand.

How it is to be achieved, is a different matter however. Maybe the formation of a breakaway league, whatever. But the undeniable fact is that if you want good quality professional football in present day Australia, you cannot have it with 14, or even 12 clubs. The figures just don't add up! It cannot be done, full stop!



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WORLD RESULTS

ARGENTINA

Huracan-Corrientes	3	Independiente	2
Racing Club	1	Platense	0
River Plate	3	Velez Sarsfield	0
Rosario Central	4	Boca Juniors	2
San Lorenzo	1	Gimnasia La Plata	2

River Plate	17	14	1	2	49	18	43
Independiente	18	10	4	4	31	21	34
Lanus	18	9	7	2	22	12	34
Racing Club	18	9	5	4	31	23	32
Rosario Central	18	7	7	4	32	27	28
San Lorenzo	18	8	3	7	24	22	27
Boca Juniors	18	7	4	7	36	32	25
Gimnasia-La Plata	18	6	6	6	15	17	24
Estudiantes	18	7	3	8	25	26	24
Colon	18	5	8	5	25	24	23
Velez Sarsfield	18	6	5	7	29	31	23
Newell's Old Boys	18	6	5	7	23	26	23
Gimnasia-Jujuy	18	5	7	6	17	19	22
Platense	18	5	6	7	24	27	21
Ferro	18	4	7	7	30	34	19
Huracan-Corrien	17	4	7	6	27	32	19
Union	18	4	5	9	22	27	17
Huracan	18	3	7	8	21	35	16
Deportivo Espanol	18	2	9	7	16	23	15
Banfield	18	3	4	11	14	37	13

River Plate win the championship. The Apertura championship is the first of two tournaments played during the Argentine season. The teams play each other once in each and there is no overall champion.

ASIAN CUP

Iran	6	South Korea	2
Bagheri (30)		Kim Do Hoon (11)	
Azizi (51)		Sin Tae Yong (34)	
Ali Daei (66, 76, 83)			

Saudi Arabia	4	China	3
Thunai (30, 65)		Zhang Enhua (6, 89)	
Al-Jaber (32)		Peng Weiguo (16)	
Mahalel (43)			

Semi-Final

Utd Arab Emirates	1	Kuwait	0
Ahmed (69)			

Iran	0	Saudi Arabia	0
(Saudi Arabia won 4-3 on pens.)			

ASIAN CUP

Saudi Arabia	0	Utd Arab Emirates	0
(Saudi Arabia won 4-2 on penalties)			

ENGLAND

Coventry	2	Newcastle	1
Liverpool	4	Nottingham Forest	2
Chelsea	3	West Ham	1
Everton	0	Leeds	0
Leicester	0	Coventry	2
Manchester United	5	Sunderland	0
Nottingham Forest	2	Arsenal	1
Southampton	3	Derby	1
Tottenham	1	Sheffield Wednesday	1

Liverpool	18	11	4	3	35	17	37
Arsenal	18	10	5	3	35	18	35
Wimbledon	17	10	4	3	30	17	34
Manchester United	18	8	7	3	37	25	31
Newcastle	17	9	3	5	27	19	30
Aston Villa	17	9	3	5	22	15	30
Everton	18	7	7	4	26	20	28
Chelsea	18	7	7	4	28	27	28
Sheffield Wed	18	6	8	4	19	20	26
Tottenham	18	7	4	7	18	25	25
Derby	18	5	7	6	20	23	22
Leeds	18	6	4	8	15	20	22
Leicester	18	6	3	9	17	24	21
Sunderland	18	5	5	8	17	26	20
West Ham	18	4	6	8	16	25	18
Southampton	18	4	4	10	27	33	16
Coventry	18	3	7	8	14	24	16
Middlesbrough	18	3	6	9	21	33	15
Blackburn	17	2	7	8	16	22	13
Nottingham Forest	18	2	7	9	16	30	13

Leading scorers

14 Ian Wright (Arsenal)
10 Robbie Fowler (Liverpool), Alan Shearer (Newcastle)
9 Fabrizio Ravanelli (Middlesbrough)
8 Matthew Le Tissier (Southampton), Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (Man United), Dwight Yorke (Aston Villa), Efan Ekoku (Wimbledon), Gianluca Vialli (Chelsea)
7 Les Ferdinand (Newcastle), Robbie Earle (Wimbledon)

Division One

Bradford	0	Reading	0
Crystal Palace	0	Sheffield United	1
West Bromwich	5	Norwich	1

Crystal Palace	1	Charlton	0
Grimsby	1	Bradford	1
Huddersfield	1	Queens Park Rangers	2
Ipswich	1	Stoke	1
Oldham	2	Manchester City	1
Port Vale	6	Norwich	1
Reading	0	Portsmouth	0
Sheffield United	0	Barnsley	1
Tranmere	0	Wolverhampton	2
West Bromwich	3	Oxford	3
Southend	1	Birmingham	1

Barnsley	23	12	8	3	42	26	44
Bolton	23	11	9	3	46	32	42
Sheffield Wed	24	12	6	6	40	25	42
Crystal Palace	24	10	9	5	48	24	39
Wolverhampton	23	10	6	7	31	22	36
Oxford	24	9	7	8	34	25	34
Queens Park Rang	24	9	7	8	31	29	34
Stoke	22	9	7	6	30	31	34
Port Vale	24	8	10	6	28	24	34
Norwich	23	9	6	8	30	33	33
Birmingham	23	8	9	6	24	22	33
Tranmere	24	9	5	10	31	31	32
Ipswich	24	7	9	8	30	34	30
Portsmouth	24	8	6	10	28	30	30
West Bromwich	23	6	11	6	36	37	29
Swindon	23	9	2	12	32	30	29
Charlton	23	9	2	12	24	33	29
Huddersfield	24	7	7	10	27	33	28
Reading	24	7	7	10	25	33	28
Manchester City	23	8	2	13	27	37	26
Oldham	24	6	8	10	26	29	26
Southend	24	5	10	9	24	41	25
Bradford	24	5	8	11	22	38	23
Grimsby	23	5	7	11	25	42	22

Division Two

Millwall	0	Luton	1
Blackpool	3	York	0
Brentford	0	Preston	0
Bristol Rovers	3	Wycombe	4
Bury	0	Stockport	0
Chesterfield	1	Bournemouth	1
Rotherham	1	Plymouth	2
Watford	0	Gillingham	0
Wrexham	2	Bristol City	1
Crewe	3	Notts County	0
Peterborough	3	Birmingham	2
Shrewsbury	2	Walsall	2

Division Three

Barnet	1	Chester	2
Cardiff	1	Mansfield	2
Carlisle	3	Scunthorpe	2
Darlington	2	Torquay	3
Exeter	1	Swansea	2
Hartlepool	2	Lincoln	1
Hull	3	Doncaster	1
Scarborough	0	Fulham	2
Wigan	0	Rochdale	1
Colchester	2	Cambridge	2
Northampton	1	Hereford	0

Division Two

Brentford	24	12	8	4	37	24	44
Luton	23	13	4	6	41	25	43
Bury	23	11	8	4	35	22	41
Millwall	24	11	8	5	33	24	41
Wrexham	22	10	8	4	29	24	38
Stockport	24	10	8	6	29	25	38
Watford	23	9	11	3	25	19	38
Chesterfield	23	11	5	7	23	18	38
Burnley	24	11	4	9	33	27	37
Crewe	23	12	1	10	32	27	37
Bristol City	23	9	7	7	38	26	34
Shrewsbury	24	7	8	9	30	37	29
Bristol Rovers	24	7	8	9	26	28	29
Preston	24	8	5	11	24	27	29
York	23	8	5	10	24	32	29
Blackpool	24	6	10	8	25	27	28
Plymouth	24	6	9	9	28	34	27
Walsall	23	7	6	10	24	28	27
Gillingham	24	7	6	11	23	29	27
Bournemouth	24	7	6	11	22	29	27
Peterborough	24	5	9	10	35	43	24
Wycombe	24	6	5	13	22	36	23
Notts County	23	5	6	12	15	26	21
Rotherham	23	3	7	13	19	35	16

Division Three

Fulham	24	16	4	4	39	17	52
Carlisle	24	13	7	4	38	24	46
Cambridge	24	13	5	6	36	30	44
Wigan	23	12	5	6	40	26	41

Chester	23	10	6	7	27	25	36
Swansea	23	10	5	8	27	26	35
Scunthorpe	24	10	4	10	34	34	34
Northampton	24	9	7	8	33	27	34
Cardiff	22	10	4	8	26	24	34
Torquay	24	10	4	10	26	26	34
Colchester	24	7	12	5	35	29	33
Barnet	23	8	8	7	24	19	32
Hull	24	7	11	6	23	26	32
Lincoln	24	8	7	9	30	36	31
Scarborough	23	7	9	7	30	30	30
Rochdale	23	7	8	8	29	29	29
Hartlepool	23	8	4	11	28	30	28
Mansfield	23	6	10	7	24	24	28
Exeter	24	7	5	12	23	34	26
Leyton Orient	22	6	7	9	17	20	25
Doncaster	23	7	3	13	25	36	24
Hereford	24	6	5	13	25	35	23
Darlington	24	6	4	14	33	44	22
Brighton	23	4	4	15	21	42	14

Note: Brighton deducted two points.

ENGLAND

FA Cup Second Round replays			
Burnley	0	Walsall	1
(match abandoned due to floodlight failure)			
Peterborough	4	Enfield	1
(Peterborough away to Plymouth in third round)			
Wycombe	3	Barnet	2
(Wycombe home to Bradford)			
Scunthorpe	2	Wrexham	3
(after extra time)			
Wrexham home to West Ham in third round.			

League Cup

Fourth Round replays			
Southampton	3	Oxford	2
Stockport	2	West Ham	1

Quarter-Final draw

Ipswich	v	Leicester
Middlesbrough	v	Liverpool
Bolton	v	Wimbledon
Stockport	v	Southampton

FRANCE

Lens	1	Monaco	3
Paris St-Germain	1	Montpellier	1
Auxerre	0	Strasbourg	1
Metz	2	Caen	2
Lyon	0	Nantes	1
Rennes	4	Marseille	2
Cannes	1	Guingamp	0
Le Havre	1	Nancy	3
Nice	1	Lille	1
Bastia	3	Bordeaux	1

Monaco	23	14	6	3	40	17	48
Paris Saint-Germ	23	12	8	3	35	16	44
Bastia	23	12	6	5	33	24	42
Bordeaux	23	10	7	6	33	26	37
Strasbourg	23	12	1	10	28	30	37
Metz	23	9	9	5	25	19	36
Auxerre	23	9	8	6	28	17	35
Nantes	23	8	10	5	42	25	34
Lyon	23	8	8	7	30	34	32
Rennes	23	9	4	10	29	32	31
Marseille	23	7	9	7	24	22	30
Guingamp	23	7	8	8	18	20	29
Lille	23	7	8	8	24	33	29
Cannes	23	7	7	9	15	23	28
Le Havre	23	6	7	10	23	28	25
Lens	23	7	4	12	26	38	25
Montpellier	23	4	10	9	19	26	22
Caen	23	4	8	11	18	28	20
Nancy	23	4	7	12	19	30	19
Nice	23	4	5	14	19	40	17

HOLLAND

Roda JC Kerkrade	6	Heerenveen	1
Fortuna Sittard	0	RKC Waalwijk	0
Willem II Tilburg	3	Utrecht	0

PSV Eindhoven	19	14	3	2	58	14	45
Feyenoord	19	13	3	3	34	20	42
Twente Enschede	19	11	4	4	30	15	37
Roda JC Kerkrade	20	9	6	5	27	23	33
Vitesse Arnhem	19	9	5	5	31	22	32
Ajax Amsterdam	19	7	9	3	24	17	30
Graafschap Doet	19	9	3	7	29	26	30
Heerenveen	20	7	8	5	33	28	29
NAC Breda	20	7	4	9	22	31	25
Utrecht	20	4	10	6	26	29	22
Willem II Tilburg	20	6	4	10	22	32	22
Volendam	19	5	6	8	20	29	21
Sparta Rotterdam	20	6	3	11	22	27	21
Fortuna Sittard	20	3	10	7	18	32	19
AZ Alkmaar	19	5	3	11	17	24	18
Groningen	19	4	6	9	20	33	18
NEC Nijmegen	19	3	7	9	19	35	16
RKC Waalwijk	20	3	6	11	18	33	15

WORLD STORIES

FOREST'S BOSS QUILTS

Frank Clark resigned as manager of struggling Nottingham Forest last week adding to the pressure on the English premier league's bottom club.

The 53-year-old Clark, who took over from Brian Clough in May 1993, had grown increasingly frustrated as protracted takeover negotiations prevented the club from signing new players to improve a sequence of poor results.

Forest has not won since the opening day of the season and its 4-2 defeat at Liverpool proved the final straw for Clark, who suspected he would be sacked anyway once the club's takeover was finalised in the New Year.

"I believed I would be out like a shot and I didn't want to be sitting around like a turkey waiting for Christmas," said Clark.

"I don't feel I can do anything else for the players to get them out of this mess. Going will do them a favour. They might just get the couple of results they desperately need."

In Clark's first season, Forest won promotion back to the Premier League and a year later they qualified for Europe, reaching the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup last season before going out to Bayern Munich.

As a player, Clark won a UEFA Cup winners medal in 1969 with Newcastle before moving to Forest where he collected a league championship medal in 1978, two League Cups and the European Cup in 1979 at the age of 35.

He has already been linked with the managerial vacancy at Manchester City.

River Plate ARGENTINE WINNERS

River Plate clinched the Argentine championship on Thursday with a 3-0 win over Velez Sarsfield but its celebrations were spoiled by the sending off of star player Ariel Ortega.

River, one of the two giants of Argentine soccer, had only needed a draw against the defending champion to win the 1996-97 Apertura championship, the first of two tournaments played in the Argentine season.

But River, which has won 14 of its 17 games, won convincingly, helped by two

goals from Chilean midfielder Marcelo Salas, one of the stars of the campaign. It took the title with two games to spare.

The night's black spot was the dismissal of the hugely talented Ortega, sent off in the second half along with Claudio Hussain of Velez.

Ortega was the only Argentine player to perform impressively as his country drew 1-1 at home to Chile in Sunday's World Cup qualifier.

It was River's 25th title in Argentine professional soccer.



ERIKSSON FOR BLACKBURN

Sampdoria coach Sven Goran Eriksson was named as the new manager of English Premier League struggler Blackburn Rovers last week, although he will not join the club until July 1997.

Blackburn said caretaker-manager Tony Parkes will remain in charge for the rest of the season.

Blackburn, English champion in 1995 with Kenny Dalglish at the helm, finished seventh last season under manager Ray Harford.

They made a poor start this season with Harford resigning on October 26.

Since Parkes took control their fortunes have improved but he has repeatedly stressed he was not interested in the job on a long-term basis.



Sven Goran Eriksson: Will move from Sampdoria to Blackburn as manager in July.

Hill appointed to FIFA post

Fears that soccer could withdraw from the 2000 Sydney Olympics were scuttled last week when Soccer Australia chairman David Hill was appointed to the FIFA Olympic committee.

Hill's appointment shows that the rift between FIFA and the IOC has been resolved, after complaints about how the code was treated at the Atlanta Olympics.

Hill has also been elected to the FIFA Olympic tournament bureau which has responsibility of the daily running of Olympic Football (soccer).

Hill said the appointment of an Australian representative on the FIFA committee strengthened and secured the position of soccer in the Sydney Olympics.

"This follows recent press speculation that FIFA might radically change the relationship between soccer and the Olympic Games."

Soccer officials were initially bitter that their code was not played in the Olympic city of Atlanta.

Hill said soccer was now the most popular of all Olympic sports and more fans attended games than any other sport in recent Olympics.

"Soccer Australia is determined that soccer will be a great success in the 2000 Olympics and will attract the biggest crowds," he said.

Bob Elphinston, general manager of sports for SOCOG, was also convinced that soccer would be the biggest money earner and draw the biggest crowds to the Games.



David Hill: Appointed to FIFA Olympic committee.

IRAN CRUSH SOUTH KOREA

Iran, with four late goals to striker Ali Daei, twice came from behind to crush South Korea 6-2 in their Asian Cup quarter-final match.

Korea began the match at a furious pace that immediately unsettled the Iranians, who were being forced out of their stride.

Korea, who just managed to squeeze into the quarter-finals after an unimpressive run in the group matches, went in front after only 12 minutes when captain Kim Joo-Sung, who was the mastermind of the Korean attack, slotted an inch perfect pass to striker Kim Do-Hoon

who made no mistake.

Iran, struggling to make any dent in the Korean defence, got the break they needed in the 30th minute when Karim Bagheri's powerful header from the edge of the area from a corner caught a Korean defender's foot.

As goalkeeper Kim Byung-Ji dived to his right the deflected ball ran into the left hand corner. Korea came straight back and substitute Sin TaeYong put his side back in front less than 60 seconds after he replaced midfielder Seo Jung-Won.

As the pace picked up, Iran settled down and put the

Korean defence under pressure. It was no surprise when 25-year-old Khodadad Azizi levelled the score in the 51st minute.

Constant Iranian pressure finally paid off in the 66th minute when Daei buried defender Hong Myung-Bo off balance and from the left of the area stroked the ball past a helpless Kim.

Iran was now in complete control and Daei buried Korean hopes when he volleyed past Kim in the 81st minute. Daei got his hat-trick in the 83rd minute and rubbed salt into the wound with an 89th minute penalty.

LIVERPOOL APOLOGISE FOR BITTER ATTACK

Liverpool officials have formally apologised to Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar for a newspaper article in which his running of the club was attacked by defender Neil Ruddock.

The move could save the Liverpool centre-back from facing a charge of bringing the game into disrepute, even though the Football Association said it was

considering what to do about an official complaint to it by Sugar.

Club spokesman Ian Cotton said: "Liverpool have no prior knowledge of any newspaper article and the club has apologised to Mr Sugar."

In the article, Ruddock, a \$5.27m buy from Tottenham in July 1993, accused Sugar of failing "to run Spurs as a football club".

UAE DOWN KUWAIT

The United Arab Emirates elbowed their way into the Asian Cup final by beating Kuwait 1-0.

The notoriously slow starting UAE survived the opening 45 minutes before gradually dominating a Kuwaiti side which struggled throughout the tournament to last the full 90 minutes.

The UAE's surprise trip to last Saturday's final was booked in the 70th minute when the Kuwaiti defence failed to pick up Hassan

Ahmed as he charged into the box to meet a Mohamed Mohamed corner.

The ball was almost in the back of the net before Kuwaiti keeper Fahad Al-Majidi had time to react.



WEDNESDAY BLUNT UNITED

Manchester United's defence of its Premiership title continued to falter when it was held to a 1-1 draw by Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough last week.

Striker Paul Scholes salvaged a point for the Double winners with a goal just moments after Italian ace Benito Carbone had threatened to kill off United's challenge.

Former Inter Milan star Carbone fired Wednesday ahead with a curling shot 10 minutes after the interval but Scholes hit back three minutes later with a thundering drive

from 20 metres.

United went into the match with the worst away record in the top half of the Premiership, just two wins in nine games, a record they rarely looked like improving against a vibrant Wednesday outfit enjoying a run of seven matches without defeat.

Kevin Pressman pushed Ronnie Johnsen's third-minute effort behind for a corner before Ryan Giggs squandered a glorious opening three minutes later when he dragged his shot wide with just the goalkeeper to beat.

Carbone brought Wednesday to life five

minutes later with a brilliant long-range freekick shortly before Graham Hyde and Guy Whittingham both wasted good opportunities.

United's response was a lightning Giggs raid down the left and a measured cross to the far post. Scholes met it with a bullet header but Pressman reacted quickly to tip over. Minutes later Scholes had pulled United level. Wednesday failed to clear on the edge of their area and Scholes thundered a left-foot effort beyond Pressman's despairing dive.

HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN FC

BY STUART JONES

Ground: Tynecastle Park
Address: George Road, Edinburgh EH 11 2HL
Railway Station: Edinburgh Haymarket
Founded: 1874
Admitted to League: 1890 (Founder Member)
Ground Capacity: Undergoing Reconstruction, so variable
Seats: —
Pitch Size: 108yd x 72 yd
Largest Gate: 53,396 v Rangers Scot Cup 3rd Rd, 13 Feb 1932
Biggest Win: 21-0 v Anchor, EFA Cup 1880
Heaviest Defeat: 1-8 v Vale of Leithen, Scottish Cup 1888
Nickname: The Jam Tarts
Colours: Maroon
Honours: League: Division One: 1894-95, 1896-97, 1957-58, 1959-60
First Division: 1979-80
Scottish Cup: 1891, 1896, 1901, 1906, 1956
League Cup: 1954-55, 1958-59, 1959-60, 1962-63

History: Taking their name from a popular dance club, Hearts started playing on East Meadows alongside most other clubs in Edinburgh. A year at Powburn was followed by two at the Powderhall Grounds. In the same decade Hibs also were to use the same three grounds. Because of its susceptibility to flooding, due to its close proximity to the banks of the Water of Leith, the club moved from Powderhall and moved to a ground called Tynecastle, across the road from today's ground.

The area at the time was thought to be out of town. On 27 February, 1886 the club played its final game at old Tynecastle. Five weeks later they were playing across Gorgie Road. With two championships and four Cup Final victories the club became well established at Tynecastle. In June 1926 the club purchased the ground. However large crowds found conditions uncomfortable, the ground was hemmed in by a distillery and narrow streets. Even the Kindertarden would not move to help the club expand its ground. They proposed moves to Murrayfield, or building afresh at Sighthill at either a ground of 100,000 capacity.

Then the Second World War came and both ideas never saw the light of day. In October 1957 Hearts took on Newcastle in a friendly under floodlights for the first time. The ground is under redevelopment but the struggle against space will continue at Tynecastle. Recently there has been a lack of titles for Hearts but they have managed to make the Scottish League and FA Cup Finals in the last two seasons, losing to Rangers on both occasions.

AUSTRALIA NAMES JANUARY SQUAD...

A list of 18 players have been named as the squad from which the teams to contest the Optus World Soccer Series will be chosen. All the players are with Australian teams although Tony Popovic is not currently playing as he is on the books of Hiroshima Sanfrece. Aytec Genc has just signed for the Pumas after completing a stint in Malaysia.

Kalac, Popovic, Enes, Zdrilic, Babic, Genc (Sydney United); Bingley, Foster, Longo, Babic (Marconi); Hooker (West Adelaide); Tobin, Ivanovic, Petkovic (Adelaide City); Tapai, Lozanovski (Collingwood); Trimboli (right), Polak, Spink (South Melbourne); Blagojevic, Edwards, Trajanovski (UTS Olympic).

Stand by players: Juric (Collingwood); Casserly (Marconi); Halpin (Newcastle); De Amicis (South Melbourne); Trajovski (Sydney United); Tsekini (West Adelaide).

Six have been named in a stand by capacity in case of injuries to the first 18.



Baby Giraffe in Soccerroo Squad

By DANE SKAFTE

Newcastle Topper Breakers Clayton Zane has been selected in the Coca Cola young Soccerroos squad.

Zane will assemble with the rest of the team in Sydney on Boxing Day and depart for Tahiti on Friday 27th December to take part in the Oceania Qualification tournament leading up to the 1997 World Youth Championships. Zane was notified last week of his selection by Soccer Australia.

"I was a bit surprised at first, but it's always good to know that Les Scheinflug is keeping an eye on me. Hopefully I can score more goals when I am away overseas." The twenty year old has been reasonable happy with his form so far this season.

"My main aim is to play

overseas in a few years. If I can make it fine, but if I don't I will return back home," Zane is looking forward to the Year 2000 Olympics because he will still be eligible to play in the Olyroos.

"Basically the majority of the Young Soccerroos could play for Australia in the Olympics. Hopefully I will be in the squad," Zane concluded.

Breakers defender, Andy Roberts made his return to the starting line-up last Friday night against Sydney United. Roberts has spent most of the season watching the game from the sideline or bench.

"I have been waiting for my chance for a while now, and I will take full opportunity of it," Roberts said.

The 26 year old speedster

was given his first run in the first team in several months when he replaced Glenn Moore in the second half against Marconi Fairfield.

Several of the Breakers players took part last week in a combined training session with the Super League rugby team, the Hunter Mariners. The Mariners will use the Breakers home stadium as their home ground. Mariners coach, Graham Murray was happy with the way the proceedings went.

"It is an outstanding ground and the stadium will have a great atmosphere if we get 10,000 people to the game," Murray said.

Breakers captain, Troy Halpin and Clayton Zane offered a few tips to the Rugby League players and took part in several exercises.

Weird and Wonderful

BY STUART JONES

1894-95

Sunderland won the title again in 1895. After coming close the season before to successfully defending their title, Sunderland outlasted Everton to win the first division by five points. The previous champions Villa finished third. Mighty Preston bounced back from the disappointment of the previous season to come fourth. Both Middlesbrough Ironopolis and Northwich Victoria resigned from the League with Burton Wanderers, Bury and Leicester Fosse joining.

Leicester and Bury continue to play in the Football League today, however not so Burton. They were the second club to make up Burton United within a few seasons, and that club did not last the test of time in league football either.

Bury had a successful initial campaign, winning the second division at the first attempt. Notts County and Newton Heath made the test matches for promotion by finishing 2nd and 3rd respectively. They were to take on Liverpool, who had had a very poor season, Derby and Stoke. Goal difference saw WBA avoid the playoffs as they finished on 24 points along with Stoke. Derby defeated Leicester 2-1, Bury defeated Liverpool 1-0 and Stoke beat Newton Heath 3-0, so Bury were the only team promoted and Liverpool the only side relegated that season.

In the FA Cup the Birmingham sides of WBA and Aston Villa faced each other after defeating Sheffield Wednesday and Sunderland in the semi finals. Chatt scored for Villa within a few minutes of the start at the Crystal Palace ground, although it actually deflected off the unfortunate Horton. It was to be the only goal of the match so Villa again won the trophy.

Another League started up this season in England. At times it would try to rival the Football League in its status, and many well known teams would play in it. It was the Southern League, and in its very first game on September 22nd 1894 Millwall beat Swindon 9-0. Millwall went on to win the first division and at the end of the first season they were invited to join the Football League but declined due to the expense of travelling.

New Brompton took out the second division. In the test matches New Brompton defeated Swindon 5-1 at Reading to win promotion, whilst Clapton, who were an amateur club, defeated second placed (2nd division) Sheppey United at Tottenham by the same scoreline to stay in the top flight.

In Scotland Hearts grabbed the title away from Celtic. They finished top with 31 points, five ahead of Celtic who were a further four points in front of Rangers. In the Scottish FA Cup, St Bernards defeated Renton 2-1 to take the trophy.

It was to be the last season that official league football was only confined to Britain. The next season some Scandinavian countries formed official leagues.

LEAGUE TABLES

— DIVISION ONE —

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Sunderland	30	13	2	0	41	14	8	3	4	29	23	47
Everton	30	12	2	1	47	18	6	4	5	35	32	42
Aston Villa	30	12	2	1	51	12	5	3	7	31	31	39
Preston NE	30	9	3	3	32	14	6	2	7	30	32	35
Blackburn R	30	9	4	1	40	15	2	5	8	19	23	32
Sheffield U	30	10	2	3	33	17	4	2	9	24	38	32
Nottingham F	30	10	1	4	33	22	3	4	8	17	34	31
Sheffield W	30	10	2	3	36	19	2	2	11	14	36	28
Burnley	30	8	2	5	28	24	3	2	10	16	32	26
Bolton W	30	8	3	4	45	23	1	4	10	16	39	24
Wolves	30	7	4	4	24	25	2	3	10	19	38	25
Small Heath	30	6	6	3	34	28	3	1	11	15	36	25
WBA	30	9	2	4	38	21	1	2	12	13	45	24
Stoke	30	7	3	5	35	25	2	3	10	14	42	24
Derby Co	30	4	5	6	23	23	3	4	8	22	45	23
Liverpool	30	6	4	5	38	28	1	4	10	23	42	22

— DIVISION TWO —

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Bury	30	14	0	0	48	11	8	2	5	30	22	48
Notts Co	30	12	2	1	40	14	4	3	7	25	30	39
Newton Heath	30	9	6	0	52	18	6	2	7	26	26	38
Leicester F	30	11	2	2	45	20	4	6	5	27	33	38
Grimsby T	30	14	0	1	51	16	4	1	10	28	36	37
Darwen	30	14	1	1	53	10	3	3	9	21	33	36
Burton W	30	10	3	2	49	9	4	4	7	18	30	35
W Arsenal	30	11	3	1	54	20	3	3	9	21	38	34
Adwick	30	9	4	4	56	28	5	9	10	26	44	31
Newcastle U	30	11	1	3	51	28	1	2	12	21	56	27
Burton S	30	9	2	4	34	20	2	1	12	18	54	25
Rotherham T	30	10	0	5	37	22	1	2	12	18	40	24
Lincoln C	30	8	0	7	32	27	2	0	13	20	65	20
Walsall TS	30	8	0	7	35	25	2	0	13	12	67	20
Burslem PV	30	6	3	6	30	23	1	1	13	9	54	18
Crewe A	30	3	4	8	20	34	0	0	15	6	69	10

— FIRST DIVISION —

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Millwall Athletic	16	12	4	0	58	19	28
Luton Town	16	12	4	0	58	19	28
S'pton St Mary's	16	9	2	5	34	25	20
Ilford	16	6	3	7	26	40	15
Reading	16	6	2	8	33	38	14
Chatham	16	4	5	7	22	23	13
Royal Ord. Fact.	16	3	6	7	20	30	12
Clapton	16	5	1	10	22	38	11
Swindon town	16	4	1	11	24	48	9

— SECOND DIVISION —

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
New Brompton	12	11	0	1	57	10	22
Sheppey United	12	6	1	5	25	23	13
Old St Stephens	12	6	0	6	26	26	12
Uxbridge	12	4	3	5	14	20	11
Bromley	12	4	1	7	23	30	9
Chesham	12	3	3	6	20	42	9
Maidenhead	12	2	4	6	19	33	8

RISING STARS

Australia's Under 20s to Tahiti

National Youth Coach Les Scheinflug has finalised the squad to play in the Oceania Qualification Tournament for a berth in the World Youth Cup in Malaysia next year.

The touring party of 18 will leave Sydney on Friday December 27 for the tournament venue, Tahiti, for round robin matches against Fiji, New Zealand and Tahiti. The pool matches begin on Saturday January 4 and the finals will be played on Friday January 10.

The team will return to Sydney on Tuesday January 14. The match schedule in the eighteen players chosen to travel are:



THE TEAM:

Salapsadis, Pirone (Adelaide City); Colosimo (AIS); Wehrman (Brisbane Strikers); Milosevic, Garcia (Canberra Cosmos); Kewell (Leeds United); Neill (Millwall); Zane (Newcastle Breakers); McDermott (Queens Park Rangers); Blatsis, Damianos, Curcija (South Melbourne); Emerton, Zelic (UTS Olympic); Vargas, Zois (VIS); Sinozic (Wollongong City).

In case of injury six players are on Standby as follows:

Seric (AIS); Buljan (Canberra Cosmos); Baser (South Melbourne); Gonzalez (UTS Olympic); Mezensof, Wildy (West Adelaide).

TAHITI IS:

Saturday January 4

Tahiti v NZ
Australia v Fiji

Monday January 6

Australia v NZ
Tahiti v Fiji

Wednesday January 8

NZ v Fiji
Tahiti v Australia

Friday January 10

3rd v 4th
1st v 2nd

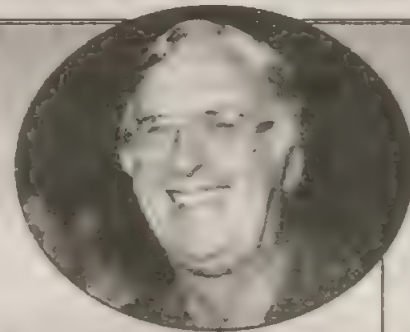


Clayton, one of Newcastle Breakers off to Tahiti

News in Brief



... by BOB BROOKS



Referees are quitting the game in Birmingham, leaving England's second largest city with a severe shortage of officials particularly for Sunday morning and afternoon games.



Sunday competitions in England are traditionally times when teams associated with pubs and working mens clubs get together to play. The more organised competitions always take place on Saturdays.

Amazingly players in Sunday competitions are not registered, you simply turn up with eleven blokes and take the field. Consequently ring-ins are common, leading to disputes.

Respect for referees has reached crisis point in Brum, as the city is affectionately known. Verbal abuse has turned to physical attacks. There was one

report of a so called 'trainer' tipping his bucket of water into a refs personal bag because of being upset by some of his decisions.

The local pink Saturday night paper 'The Sports Argus' has started a campaign to clean up the game for its long term survival.

There's much to be learnt in Birmingham from most local associations in Australia. They should have all players registered and issued with an ID card then the bad apples can be weeded out.

Early this year the Amateur Soccer Federation of Victoria advertised for new teams in ABSW. They more than paid for the investment with four new outfits.

Again the ASFV is offering groups of all sorts, the same opportunity. As John Kelly, CEO informed us they'll tolerate any name, of any description. As Kelly says to visit clubs from a wide variety of backgrounds is a revelation. The different foods on offer are a gourmet's delight. See Ad on page 9.

Brazilian skills, taught by the Masters are what we often think of as being the ultimate coaching.

Reports are positive about the football Academy of Excellence run by two enthusiastic and dedicated individuals. They have the personal endorsement of the Director, this means the head, of the Brazilian Football Academy in Rio de Janeiro.

Enrolments are being taken for the first 12 week semester which kicks off in February. This follows a successful introductory six week program completed recently.

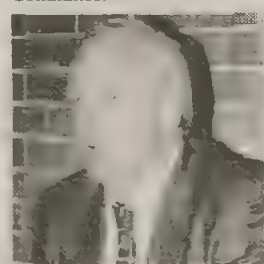


All levels of players from 8 to 17 year olds are welcome. The Academy seeks to assist the participants to reach their full potential, leading to a greater enjoyment of the World Game.

As well as skill development according to a player's ability, education is given on important subjects such as nutrition, injury prevention, rhythmic movement and coordination. A specific detailed report

card is prepared for each pupil at the end of the semester. Call on Sydney 9526 7426 or fax to Sydney 9526 7401 for further details.

Congratulations are in order for David Hill on his appointment to the FIFA Olympic Co-ordination Committee.



Hill is determined that the Football program - that is the name in the Olympic list of sports - continues to enjoy the greatest aggregate crowds of all Olympic events.

Since Los Angeles in 1984 attendances at the football matches have been remarkable. With the introduction of a Women's tournament in 1996 at Atlanta those figures jumped again. A World record for a women's sporting event attended the final with the USA triumphant by 2 goals to 1 over China.

To achieve the figures required, it will be necessary to win over fans of other

football codes and get them out to the venues. Quite a task but a real challenge!

Canberra appear to be going to have a Group based there for the 2000 Olympics. Sorry to dampen their joy but on current figures they should have had no chance.

Perth ought to have been a front runner. After all for the Sydney Olympics, Perth is close enough, isn't it? It's only a three and half hour flight, if you go direct.

So Group centres are Queensland based on Brisbane but why not a couple of games in Townsville? Then Melbourne, and Adelaide and Canberra for the men.

Sydney misses out on those because most of the rest of the matches will be in the host city.

Newcastle, Wollongong, Canberra and Dubbo could have hosted the Women's matches with the Semis in say Melbourne and Brisbane, the Final to be at the Olympic Stadium.

There you are David, that's sorted!

Marconi are spreading their wings with support of the Italian team competing in the 1997 rugby league Sevens tournament.



There may be further ventures in this direction according to Tony Labbazzetta, Club Marconi President.

Wonder if Soccer Australia will follow the Aussie Rules controlling body and try to ban Marconi from this involvement?

No chance as SA is more enlightened.

Innovations abound in the World Game.

South Melbourne have linked with Ticketmaster BASS to sell entry and seating for their Sunday January 5 game with Collingwood Warriors.

The anticipated sell out of the Bob Jane Stadium's 15,000 capacity has prompted this move by the Lakers.

Maria O'Connor, General Manager of Ticketmaster BASS says, "... fans can avoid the disappointments of not securing a seat."

The number to ring is 11522 or any ticket sales outlet.



It's that time in the calendar when Players of the Year are chosen. News from Canada that their choice for 1996 is Paul Peschisolido who plays in England with West Bromwich Albion.

He transferred to the Baggies before the start of the current season from neighbours Birmingham City and has notched six goals to date.

Seems like Cyrille Ndongo Keller has been sacked by West Adelaide. He came to Australia with impressive credentials but has never really made an impact.

Apparently there were difficulties getting him to move out of the Club's house. Pity he couldn't deliver on the field all that he promised.



WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

USA DUE IN FEBRUARY

Olympic Champion USA are set to tour Australia from 25 February to 6 March 1997, even though this will mean having to move the Brisbane round of the Ansett Australia Summer Series.

Taking on the Australian team over what will probably be a three test series between the two countries, match venues are yet to be confirmed, with Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane under consideration.

The Australians to do battle with the number one outfit in the world will be

announced after the next one or two rounds of national league competition. Outgoing Women's Coach Tom Sermanni, who departs for Japan at the end of January, will submit his recommendations for selections before that time.

The Aussie trio of Sunni Hughes, Cheryl Salisbury and Angela Tannotta playing in Japan's L-League will be back home and available.

Assistants Greg Brown and Jeff Olver will look after the women's international team should a new National Coach not be appointed before the historic event.

OLYMPIC 2000 VENUES NAMED

Soccer at the 2000 Olympic Games will be shared between four host cities in addition to Sydney, it was announced last Thursday.

Canberra with Bruce Stadium, Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium formerly Lang Park, the to be built Docklands Stadium in Melbourne and Adelaide's rebuilt Hindmarsh Stadium were named as the winning venues for the Olympic Game's biggest spectator sport.

The Women's Football

Olympic competition will probably be held in two of these centres, yet to be announced.

The Women's Final has been set down for the Sydney Football Stadium. The Men will contest the Gold Medal at the main Olympic Stadium.



KEEPERS IN CAMP

The recent knee injury to number one custodian Tracey Wheeler prompted Tom Sermanni (below right) to call a snap goalkeeper camp before the USA test series.

Four leading keepers - Joanne Butland (Qld), Debra Carlin (NSW), Belinda Kitching (Qld), and Caroline Lynch came together at the AIS Canberra for three days last week, directly after the Sydney leg of the national league, and were put through their paces.

"The injury to Tracey has really highlighted something of a goalkeeping dilemma," said Sermanni. "It has become apparent we need more depth in this area."

"We have numerous injuries to outfield players at the moment also, but with the players coming through, that situation can be covered. With goalkeepers, it's different. Tracey has been at the top for so long, none of the others has been given much international experience."

"Looking further down the track, this is an area which needs to be addressed. We need to

look at developing more goalkeepers at the highest level."

Wheeler has undergone knee surgery, and is working her way back to recovery.



ANSETT AUSTRALIA SUMMER SERIES — SOUTH CONFERENCE ROUND 1



ACT's Cindy Doyle Striker, from long range ahead of SA defender Tiffany Winn.



Daniela Digummarce (L) and Kristy Moore (R) in action.



WA youngster Fal Karp in ACT colours.



SA's Jessica Halfpenny beaten to the ball by Vic keeper Caroline Lynch.



Heavens above (L to R) Natalie Thomas (SA), Traci Barrett (ACT), Amanda Butler (ACT), Jessica Halfpenny (SA).

SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —

COLOMBIA THE UNBEATEN LEADER

Colombia the undisputable and unbeaten leader of the South American World Cup qualifying rounds gained another important step towards France '98 with a 2-0 away victory over Venezuela, in San Cristobal.

Meanwhile, second placed Paraguay scored a very difficult 0-0 draw against Bolivia in the altitude of La Paz, and Argentina drew 1-1 against a very committed Chilean side, and failed to impress its demanding fans once again.

In Montevideo Uruguay, under the guidance of its new coach Juan Aunchain revived its chances with a 2-0 victory over Peru and shares third place together with Ecuador and Argentina.

ARGENTINA 1
CHILE 1
Played: Monumental Stadium, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Crowd: 60,000
Argentina: Caballero, Vivas (Lopez 45), Ayala, Berizzo, Sorin, Zanetti, Almeyda, Morales (Camps 67), Alborno (Balbo 34), Ortega, Batistuta.

Coach: Passarella
Chile: Tapia, Fuentes, Reyes, Margas, C Castaneda, Cornejo, Chavarria, Mora, V Castaneda (Contreras 65), Rozental (Miranda 45), Salas (Zamorano 74)

Coach: Acosta
Goals: Argentina: Batistuta (72 pen),
Chile: Cornejo (52)
Red cards: Argentina: Ayala (45), Chile: Chavarria (40)
Referee: Aquino (Paraguay)

VENEZUELA 0
COLOMBIA 2
Played: Puerto Nuevo Stadium, San Cristobal, Venezuela
Crowd: 27,000
Venezuela: Dudamel, Filosa, Tortolero, Gonzalez, Martinez, Ramos, S Hernandez, F Hernandez (Urdaneta 78), Paez, Savarese (Diaz 76), Castellin (Sanabria 80)

Coach: Borrero
Colombia: Mondrago, Cabrera, Bermudez, Lopez (Valencia 69), Moreno, Serna, Lozano, Rincon, Valderrama, De Avila (Aristizabal 67), Valenciano (Hamilton 67)

Coach: Gomez
Yellow cards: Colombia: Lozano, Aristizabal
Goals: Colombia: Bermudez (7), Valenciano (67)
Referee: Gamboa (Chile)

BOLIVIA 0
PARAGUAY 0
Played: Hernan Siles Stadium, La Paz, Bolivia
Crowd: 39,000
Bolivia: Trucco.

Ochoaizpur, Rimba, Pena, Sandy, R Castillo, Rufino (Soria 45), Etcheverry, I Castillo, Moreno (J Suarez 61), Ramalla (R Suarez 45)
Coach: Lopez
Paraguay: Chilavert, Villamayor, Caniza, Ayala, Alcaraz, Acuna (Mesa 81), Struway, Enciso, Benitez (Bourdier 45), Baez (Coener 60), Rojas
Coach: Cesar Carpegiani
Referee: Nieves (Uruguay)
Yellow cards: Paraguay: Chilavert and Struway, Bolivia: Rimba and Etcheverry.

URUGUAY 2
PERU 0
Played: Centenario stadium, Montevideo, Uruguay
Crowd: 55,000
Uruguay: Siboldi, Tais, Herrera, Moas (De los Santos 78), Montero, Sanguinetti, Abeijon (Saralegui 85), Francescoli, Bengoeschea, Otero, Fonseca (O'Neill 60)

Coach: Aunchain
Peru: Balerio, Marengo (Dulanto 45), Soto, Reynoso, Olivares, Palacios, Serrano, Jayo, Zagarra (Carty), Maestri, Andrade (Saenz 64)
Coach: Oblitas
Goals: Uruguay: Montero (2), Bengoeschea (38)
Yellow cards: Uruguay: Montero and Bengoeschea, Peru: Marengo
Red cards: Uruguay: Otero
Referee: Russi (Colombia)

Standings:

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	P
Colombia	7	5	2	0	14	5	17
Paraguay	6	3	2	1	6	3	11
Ecuador	6	3	0	3	8	7	9
Uruguay	6	3	0	3	6	6	9
Argentina	6	2	3	1	10	7	9
Chile	6	2	2	2	9	9	8
Peru	6	1	3	2	6	8	6
Bolivia	6	1	3	2	9	7	6
Venezuela	7	0	1	6	5	21	1



Scorers:

- 6 — Asprilla (Colombia).
- 3 — Hurtado (Ecuador), Zamorano (Chile), Ortega (Argentina), Palacios (Peru).
- 2 — Batistuta (Argentina), Baldivieso (Bolivia), Aginaga (Ecuador), Margas and Salas (Chile), Reynoso (Peru), Bermudez (Colombia).



Ariel Ortega: Couldn't add to his total at home to Chile.

Next Round...

The great attraction of the next South American World Cup qualifying rounds will be the match between arch-rivals Uruguay and Argentina at Montevideo's historic Centenario stadium. Both teams are equal third with nine points each from seven games, and could be a crucial three points for one of them.

Meanwhile, the classic of the Pacific coast between Peru and Chile will be held at Lima's National stadium. Both teams need to win to

have a chance of qualifying for the World Cup. Chile has 8 points while Peru is 7th with 6 points.

The other games of round 8 to be played on January 12, 1997 are:

Venezuela v Paraguay at Merida Stadium, Merida.
Venezuela.
Bolivia v Ecuador at Hernan Siles stadium, La Paz, Bolivia.
Bye: Colombia.



Gremio wins the Brazilian National Championship

Gremio won the 1996 Brazilian national championship after its 2-0 victory over Portuguesa at Porto Alegre's Olympic Stadium, in front of 50,000 spectators, Gremio qualified for the 1997 Libertadores Cup.

Gremio: Daniel, Arce, Rivalola (Luciano 45), Galvao, Roger, Dinho (Ailton 56), Goiano, Emerson (Ze Alfonso 67), Miguel, Nunes, Alcino.



Coach: Scolari.
Portuguesa: Clemer, Valmir, Cesar, Emerson, Roberto, Capita, Gallo, Ze Roberto, Calo, Alves, Rodrigo.
Coach: Candinho.
Goals: Gremio: Nunes (2), Ailton (88).
Yellow Cards: Gremio: Dino, Portuguesa: Gallo.
Referee: Resende de Freitas (Brazil).

BILARDO RESIGNS

After only one year as coach of Boca Juniors, the most popular club in Argentina, Carlos Salvador Bilardo, who guided Argentina to win the 1986 World Cup in Mexico and to the final of the same tournament in 1990 in Italy, resigned from his post.

It was a tumultuous year in which Boca Juniors never performed up to the expectations of the coach, the fans and the officials.

In the last season, the club spent more than 23 million dollars on new players, among them Sebastian Rambert, Diego Latorre, Jose Basualdo, Nestor Lorenzo, Fernando Caceres, Hugo Guerra, Julio Cesar Torresani and Diego Cagna, but most of them failed miserably.

Boca lost the 1996 Argentine league second phase in the last four rounds, and then in the current first phase has no chance of even finish among the best four.

Maybe the biggest disappointment for Bilardo was the little support he had from some members of the squad, particularly from goalkeeper Carlos Navarro Montoya, who was eventually sacked by the coach three weeks ago, and from Jose Basualdo, an experienced midfielder, strongly recommended by Bilardo, who never reached the excellent form shown when he was at Velez Sarsfield.

"When I came to Juniors I knew that we have to plan for a long term to rebuild the squad, but I never had enough time to adapt the players to the system we wanted," said Bilardo



Sebastian Rambert: new player for Boca Juniors.

during a press conference in Buenos Aires.

"I am grateful to Boca Juniors for giving me the chance to coach again. It was a great experience to work for the most important club in the country and one of the most prestigious clubs in the world. I couldn't resist the temptation to coach again when Boca came with the offer. I was doing very well in my personal business and I never thought I will coach again. But it was an honour and a challenge you have very few times in your life."

"I want the best for Boca Juniors, and at the moment the support I needed to continue with the plan I wanted is not there. So I decided to step aside and leave the position available for someone else. Someone who could deliver what Boca Juniors deserves," added Bilardo.

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British year in focus Part 1

Merry Christmas one and all and may you all receive everything you would wish for yourselves. Over the next couple of issues we'll look at what happened over the back end of last term and the story to date in this. As you read this, I'm hopefully sitting on a beach, tinnie in hand, sunblock father 42 in place and enjoying the company of my wonderful wife and children.

And so, 1996 draws to its inevitable end and it's time to reflect on the year's events, both humorous and the not so funny of course. Let's start at the beginning and see where it leads us? Enjoy and best wishes.

JANUARY

Spurs dent the title hopes of Manchester United with a 4-1 drubbing at White Hart Lane on the first day of the new year inflicting the club's biggest defeat in league football for four years. This leaves them four points behind United by a further 3 points but with one game in hand. The following day, Newcastle beat the Gunners at home to restore a seven point spread at the top.

Bolton sack manager Roy McFarland with Ian Porterfield joining Colin Todd at Burnden Park.

Russian internationals Sergei Yuran and Vasilii Kulkov join 1st Division Millwall until the end of the season.

The FA Cup throws up the usual shocks with the biggest being a 3rd round replay where Sheffield United knock the Gunners out of the competition at Bramall Lane 1-0.

In Scotland, Rangers go eight points clear at the top as they thump Falkirk 4-0. The Scottish FA decide to allow TV evidence in disciplinary cases from next season.

Ian Rush scores his 42nd FA Cup

goal in the 7-0 mauling of Rochdale, a record for the competition. The FA cite Roger Stanislaus over cocaine abuse, failing a random drug test after Orient's game with Barnet the previous November. He becomes the first player in England to test positive for a performance enhancing drug.

Milan striker George Weah is voted the FIFA World Player of the Year beating club-mate Paulo Maldini and Jurgen Klinsman.

Man Utd are found guilty of 'poaching' 16yo Matthew Wicks, son of former Chelsea star Steve Wicks from Arsenal. They only escape punishment when the lad shows his willingness to join the Gunners as a trainee.

Division Three in Scotland throws up one of the big upsets of the year when bottom placed Albion Rovers - 5 points adrift - beat leaders Livingston - by 5 points - by a goal to nil. Ally McCoist finds the net against as Rangers beat Raith Rovers 4-0 giving him his 231st league goal for the club beating the previous best of Bob McPhail set between the wars. Celtic win 2-1 away for the second time in a week to go just 2 points behind Rangers at the top.

FEBRUARY

Leyton Orient's Roger Stanislaus Lat 27, is banned from football for 1 year for drug abuse. This is the longest suspension handed down by the FA for over 30 years.

Millwall boss Mick McCarthy is appointed as the new manager of the Republic of Ireland after Jackie Charlton steps down. Raith manager Jimmy Nicholl is the immediate replacement at the New Den and Sheffield Utd manager Dave "Harry" Bassett leaves Bramall Lane for a second stint as Crystal Palace supremo. On the same day, the DoE refused to sanction the transfers of Dumitrescu and Hottiger as they have not played in the required 75% of matches in order to obtain a new work permit. West Ham vow to fight the decision.

Celtic are held 0-0 by lowly Falkirk and lose ground on Rangers who scrape a 3-2 win against bottom of the heap Motherwell, thanks to a late penalty by none other than Ally McCoist. Paul Gascoigne receives his ninth yellow card of the season in this

game after remonstrating with the officials after being brought down in the box to earn the spot kick.

Former Stoke City and England centre-half Neil Franklin passes away at the age of 74 on the 11th day of the month. Burnley manager Jimmy Mullen is sacked after 5 years in the job the following day. Just one day later, an all time master of the game passes away. The much loved Liverpool favourite and most successful British manager of all time, Bob Paisley, at the age of 77.

UEFA have to bow to the European Commission and immediately end the embargo and movement restrictions on all European Union 'foreigners' in the wake of the Bosman Ruling.

Celtic's 4-0 demolishing of Partick Thistle leaves them level on points with Rangers at the top of the Scottish Premier league but the Gers have a vastly superior goal difference in their favour. If that wasn't enough, they buy Danish striker Erik Bo Andersen from Aalborg in a 1.5m deal.

On loan Russian Sergei Yuran, is arrested for failing to provide a breath test.

JANUARY



Ally McCoist broke Rangers goalkeeping record.

FEBRUARY



MARCH

Celtic hit another four with no creply as they trounce Hearts to again put them level on points with Rangers and 22 points clear of the field! Rangers go on to beat Hibernian 2-0 at Easter Road the next day where a fan runs onto the pitch and attacks 'keeper Andy Goram.

FIFA finally come to their senses and decide against ordering any increase in the size of the goals. Time to put the funny wigs and custard pies away lads!

Sunderland record their 7th win on the trot to replace Derby County at the top of Division One as they beat Birmingham City 2-0.

The 24th saw Leeds Utd crumble to an awesome display of football from Aston Villa in the League Cup Final at Wembley. The Villains record a 3-0 victory as if to emphasise just why there has been a lucrative 2 year extension to manager Brian Little's contract. The fans are not complaining.

Roy Keane takes over the Captain's armband for the Republic of Ireland when Andy Townsend is injured in a match against Russia but kicks out at Omar Tetrade during the game. After

being red carded for this incident, he proceeds to throw the ball at the player. The same evening, Australia gallantly lose 0-1 to Scotland at Hampden, a match that saw the Tartan Army very displeased with the result.

Blackburn Rovers, struggling all season, signed Gary Flitcroft from Manchester City for 3.5m only to see him red-carded after a mere three minutes of his debut. Rangers find themselves 1-2 down at Raith with seven minutes left in the match but run out 4-2 winners as that man Ally McCoist finishes with a hat-trick.



Roy Keane: Took over as captain and then was sent off.

APRIL

Game of the season takes place at Anfield. In a seesaw match, the home side eventually take the 3 points in a 4-3 thriller against Newcastle, thanks to a Stan Collymore final minute strike. The Geordies have now lost four of their last six matches and find themselves 3 points behind Man Utd in the table they led by 12 points. FIFA commend Kevin Keegan on his sporting attitude to defeat and invite him to share his summer philosophy at a future FIFA seminar.

Man Utd lose 3-1 to Southampton at The Dell and decide to blame it on the grey shirts they are wearing. They play the second-half in a completely different strip! Eric Cantona has fully redeemed himself after the incident at Crystal Palace and the ensuing ban as he's named Footballer of the Year by the Football Writers Association. It's his goals that have kept the side on track for the Championship and FA Cup double.

England draw 0-0 with Croatia in a friendly as their build up for Euro 96 steps up a gear. Scotland lose 2-0 to Denmark in another friendly played with goals scored by Michael Laudrup and his brother - Rangers star Brian!

The second last Saturday of the

season saw a tearful goodbye for Ian Rush at Anfield as he leaves to join Leeds at the end of the campaign. Several matters are decided on this day; Bolton lose 0-1 to Southampton and are relegated after one year in the top flight. QPR beat West Ham but are also relegated. The final 'drop position' will be contested on the last day as Sheffield Wednesday, Man City, Southampton and Coventry City all fight to keep the Wolf from the door. Sunderland clinch the Division One title and will take their place in the Premier League next year. Luton Town go down and in the 2nd Division, Brighton's game with York is abandoned as the supporters of the relegated south coast side demonstrate and invade the pitch. Swansea join them in Division three after losing to Notts County 4-0 but Preston and Gillingham go up to the 2nd. Celtic win 4-2 at Partick to keep their hopes of winning the title alive.

Rangers clinch their 8th straight title win the following day with a 3-1 win over Aberdeen. Paul Gascoigne scores them all for the Gers and is named Scotland's Footballer of the Year by his fellow players. Derby beat Palace 2-1 and clinch the second automatic promotion spot in Division One and consigning the London club to the play offs.

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